

LANNE russ My night of shame

in Monaco

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FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997

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TOMORROW COACHING **FOR LIFE** America's newest growth industry weekend



Commons tirade over sleaze 'stunt'

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

By Philip Webster and Jill Sherman

JOHN MAJOR unleashed a Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stage-managed row

Conservative backbenchers bayed with delight as Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected leader, selling policies to the unions, flying on Concorde and failing to declare it, and calling for openness while refusing to publish the secret funds of his private office.

He then turned on the Liberal Democrat leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been

BY ARTHUR LEATHLEY

POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

AND ANDREW PIERCE

TEN Tory MPs have investi-

gations hanging over them as

the Commons rises today for

A Commons investigation

into accusations against 25

MPs failed yesterday to decide

on the ten Conservatives, pro-

voking claims that the inquiry

was taking too long. Neil Hamilton, the former

Trade Minister, is among the Tory MPs whose cases will not be concluded until at least

May, when the new Parlia-

ment begins. A huge report into allegations against him will be completed next week,

but will not be published until

Mr Hamilton, who is ac-

cused of failing to divulge cash

payments from Mohamed Al

Fayed, chairman of Harrods,

complained that the report

into the allegations had not been finished. Mr Hamilton.

MP for Tatton, said: "I need to

be able to clear my name of

these false allegations and my

constituents need to know that

Among the more serious

allegations that have been left

pending are those involving

Tim Smith, a former Northern

Ireland minister, Sir Andrew Bowden, Michael Brown and Sir Michael Grylls.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Standards

Commissioner, published a

short interim report yesterday, saying that it was "clearly a

their MP is not a crook."

the new House sits.

the general election.

exped od

Ten MPs who

have to wait

throughout it, and that the attempt led by himself and Mr Blair to force the publication of the Downey report on cashfor-questions had been a stunt. Labour and Liberal Democrats, however, intensified

their charges that the Commons was rising today to avoid the Downey report being delivered to MPs next

The explosive question-time exchanges came after the interim report on the affair left ten Tories under a cloud of suspicion while clearing 15 MPs -- 11 Conservative, three Labour and one Liberal Democrat - of improperly receiving money through their constituency parties from the lobbyist Ian Greer.

But the clash between Mr Major and Mr Blair came over Mr Blair's repeated de-

Sir Gordon: regrets delay

matter for regret" that some of

his investigations had not

from Ian Greer, the lobbyist.

told friends that the delay was

"an annoying distraction" that

would not affect his campaign.

ward than the other 15.

mands that the Commons should sit on so that the full Downey report could be published. As Mr Major refused to change his plans, Mr Blair declared that his handling of character of his Government. Mr Major retorted that Mr Blair and his front bench were guilty of having "smeared and meared and smeared again".

The Prime Minister was reported by close ministerial friends to be genuinely furious that the sleaze issue had come back to distract attention from good employment figures.

But the way he allowed his pent-up emotions virtually to run out of control in the Commons delighted his backbenchers, and he was given a back-slapping reception in the Commons teá-room.

The mood of Labour MPs as they prepared to leave for the election was perhaps more justifiably upbeat after another poll gave their party a vatives. They described Mr Major's performance as a "rant" that made him look more like an Opposition lead-

er than a Prime Minister. To press home their charges that Mr Major had deliberately suspended Parliament early to avoid the Downey publication, the opposition parties tabled a one-clause Bill which would give the Standards and Privileges Committee power to sit until the dissolution on April 8. It will make no

progress.
The Cabinet meanwhile put the final touches to the Tories' manifesto for a fifth term. It is reported to be half the length of the 1992 document, although it was slightly enlarged yesterday to include the provisions lost from the educa-

tion and crime Bills this week. been finished. He insisted Ministers will highlight the that failure to conclude reports specific policies lost as an example of the significant differences between the Tory into some of the allegations did not imply guilt, but that they had been less straightforand Labour party. The new The report cleared 15 MPs of wrongdoing, including Michael Portillo, the Defence Secreadditions include proposals for expanding selection and a commitment that grant-maintained schools will be able to tary, after they were accused set up nurseries, sixth forms

of failing to declare payments and boarding facilities. made into their election cam-The programme will also paign funds. Most of the MPs are fighting the election cam-paign, but Sir Michael Grylls restore mandatory minimum sentences for repeat burglars and drug dealers. is not standing.

Although senior Opposition Seniore party sources said

the three main themes of the figures voiced anger at the manifesto would be economic delays, some of the MPs stability, social stability and involved were less irritated by them. Gerald Malone, the Health Minister, facing claims that his constituency association received £1,000 constitutional stability Matthew Parris, pages 2, 20

Televised debate, page 8 Nolan call, page 9 Philip Howard, page 20 Leading article and Letters, page 21



Councils free to stop providing home help

By IAN MURRAY COMMUNITY CORRESPONDENT

ing disabled people with home help if their budgets are used up, the House of Lords ruled

The Law Lords overturned a Court of Appeal decision that once care had been agreed, it had to be provided however short of money a council became. They backed by a majority of three to two an appeal by Gloucestershire County Council and Stephen

Dorrell, the Health Secretary. Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead said that a person's need for help "cannot sensibly be assessed without having some regard to the cost. A person's

need for a particular type or had to be found to pay for it. victim. Mr Barry had lost his level of service cannot be "Having willed the end. Par- house cleaning and laundry decided in a vacuum from liament must be asked to provision because of a shortcost have been expelled."

In a dissenting judgment Lord Lloyd of Beswick blamed Gloucester's difficulties on shortage of money from the Government. "The council has escaped from an impossible position in which they and other local authorities have been placed," he said. "Even if the council wished to raise the money to meet the need, it would be unable to do so by reason of Government-im-

posed rate-capping." The 1970 Act to provide care for the chronically sick and disabled was a noble aspiration, he said, but the money

unfolds. Brokers are standing

by for a correction of markets

the past two years.

that have risen strongly over

Yesterday's sell-off hap-

pened despite news that UK

retail price inflation fell in

February. Headline inflation

edged lower to 2.7 per cent.

from 2.8 per cent in January, while underlying inflation fell

from 3.1 per cent to 2.9 per

On Wall Street, the Dow

provide the means

The ruling affects all local authorities in England and Wales and people who rely on them for services, including cleaning, shopping and the provision of meals and housekeepers.

The case began in 1994 after Gloucestershire withdrew services from 1,500 residents to save money after the Government required it to cut £2.5 million from its annual budget. An appeal, backed by the Public Law Project and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation, was brought on behalf of Michael

Barry, an 81-year-old stroke

twice-weekly home visits and meals-on-wheels.

The High Court ruled that it was impractical to expect councils not to make cuts if their budgets were reduced, but that decision was overturned by the Court of Appeal last June.

In yesterday's judgment, Lord Clyde said availability of resources could be a determining factor. "If my resources are limited. I have to need a thing very much before I am satisfied that it is necessary to purchase it," he said.

But Derek Vizer of Voice of the Disabled said: "This decithe Law Lords don't have to floor or they would realise what a terrible thing they have done. I am going to take this case on to the Court of Human Rights. The people who are being hurt by this are people who fought for England and now they are old, the country tells them they are too expensive to look after. It was supposed to be a service from the cradle to the grave. The grave is nearer than it was before this judgment."

Age Concern and the Royal Association for Disability and Rehabilitation both described the ruling as a devastating

Shares suffer year's biggest one-day fall

By Michael Clark, stock market correspondent prolonged election campaign

LONDON shares suffered their biggest one-day fall this year, with the FT-SE 100 index of leading stocks closing 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1.

The index stands 186 points down from its all-time closing high on March II, with all but 20 points of that slump occurring this week after John Major confirmed that the elecrion would be on May I.

The latest fall was prompted by a warning from Alan Greenspan, chairman of the US Federal Reserve, that American rates would have to rise to pre-empt a resurgence in inflationary pressures. The reaction of London

dealers illustrates the amiety

of financial markets as the

Jones industrial average fell 50 points before recouping some losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday.

Shares tumble, page 25 Markets, page 28



"I thought you only had a shoot-out if there was a draw"

Oporto shooting The Foreign Office demanded

a report from Portuguese police, who fired rubber bul-lets at Manchester United



The Times on the Internet http://www.the-times.co.uk



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Big spenders consign the cardigan to history

AS A men's fashion statement, the woolly cardigan with buttons down the front is as dead as the kipper tie. Now, in a final coup de grace, it has been thrown out as one of Britain's key economic indicators. For years, cardigans — perhaps best modelled by the singer Val Dounican who went through various styles and shades on his television show — have been one of

600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the monthly retail price index, an important tool used by governments in alculating inflation. They have been removed from the statistician's shopping basket in layour of a dressier item, chinos - those light-

weight casual cotton trousers invented by

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OBITUARIES 23

MATTHEW PARRIS 20

an English army officer in India to counter the heat of the midday sun, and now seen in every British weekend

summer high street.

Some hazy link lingers in the folk memory between cardigans and light ale: they jointly belong to an age before red braces and computers, when men had time to potter. Light ale and pale ale, once RPI staple indicators, have gone too, replaced in the theoretical but supposedly typical basket by alcopops and draughtflow bitter — those cans of beer with widgets that give them a head.

The Office for National Statistics, which compiles the RPI, said yesterday that the index was constantly updated to reflect market conditions, and what society was doing. It covers a variety of

ARTS35-37

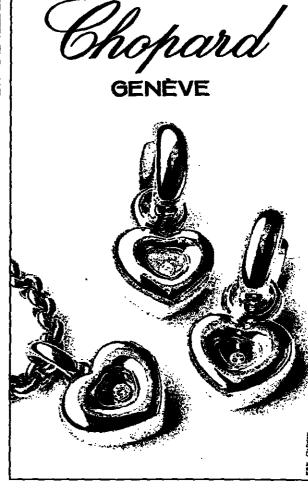
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expenditure, including food, housing, clothes, leisure, motoring, fares and fuel Among other changes are the arrival of road tolls but the dropping of superunleaded petrol; not enough people buy it. Two other new, but not surprising, items are in - Internet and cable television subscriptions, and the purchase of CD-ROM computer software.

Significantly, government statisticians have decided fees and subscriptions are now a more important part of the RPI; at the same time, they have downgraded the importance of spending on UK holidays. The simplistic conclusion is that we are surfing the net rather than the ocean's waves. What with all those subscriptions and tolls, small wonder there is nothing left to spend on cardigans.

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MoD attacked over

Gulf War syndrome

The Ministry of Defence was severely criticised by MPs yesterday over its handling of Gulf War illnesses affecting more than 1,000 people. The Commons Defence Committee

said that the ministry's approach had been influenced by a "culture of denial", and it was a matter of deep regret that so many veterans had been left to seek compensatiom through the courts. Those exposed to toxic organophosphate

pesticides should receive ex-gratia payments.

The MPs highlighted the failure of MoD officials to warn ministers about the pesticides, but also expressed surprise that the ministers Nicholas Soames and Earl Howe had not

Luxury life 'on expenses'

A chief officer who collected council rents in one of the

poorest inner city areas in Britain used public funds to subsidise an expensive lifestyle, according to a report by auditors at Labour-controlled Islington Council, London. It showed that the chief rent officer paid a builder £96,000 to fit

out a luxurious new office and spent a further £35,000 on

furniture for it. Her expenses included a fridge freezer, television and video recorder, sofa and holiday facilities.

Baroness Trumpington, a Government Whip in the House of Lords who served at Bletchley Park during the Second

World War, was urged by peers to help to save the secret codebreakers' headquarters near Militon Keynes as a

museum. Asked by Viscount Montgomery of Alamein, patron of the Bletchley Park Trust, whether the Government

believed that the park should become a national monument, she said that she hoped it would be preserved.

Channel 5 has recruited the Spice Girls to head its launch on

March 30. The five-girl pop group will be the first to appear

on the opening night in a promotional video featuring a remake of Manfred Mann's 1960s hit 5-4-3-2-1. Also

rumoured to be making a comeback on the new channel is

Roland Rat, who was brought in to boost viewing figures on

TV-am. The puppet could join the weekend children's programme The Mag.

Singer's ex-lover jailed

The former lover of the pop star Gabrielle was jailed for life

at Nottingham Crown Court for murdering his stepfather

and chopping off his head with a Samurai sword. Anthony

Woodhouse, Sheffield, had both denied murdering Walter

McCarthy, 59. Redhead was jailed for three years after

admitting assisting Antonion in the disposal of Mr

Bletchley Park plea

Spice for Channel 5

been more inquisitive about their use.

Lights flashing, almost out of control: it's end-of-the-road rage

was safe to return to Westminster... They need to coin a new term for it - "Mace rage" perhaps. As Parliament rises, the Prime Minister simply explodes. Like a bank manager driven

beyond endurance, John Major flew off the handle during his final Prime Minister's Questions yesterday, lashing out in all directions. If it was less than statesmanlike, it was more than lively: it was

Major started hitting people almost before anyone

ust when you thought it had uttered. He took a swipe bombardment which threatat Dennis Skinner, challenging him to quit. He landed a punch on John Prescott (who had not even spoken) accusing him of being in hock to the railway unions. And he accused Paddy Ashdown of finishing the session as he had started it, awash in picty and

pomposity. But it was Tony Blair who caught the full force. Needled by the Labour Leader's accusation that he was conspiring to supress a Commons watchdog report on alleged sleaze, the Prime Minister began a ened to keep Parliament sitting until Sunday.

It was like one of those domestic scenes in which some small but ill-judged remark sets a spark to the blue touch-paper - and bang. Everything Mr Major hates about Mr Blair came pouring out. Accused of sweeping corruption under the carpet, the Prime Minister angrily retorted that this was pretty rich. coming from a man who "sells policy to the trade unions for

A sharp riposte. But getting



it off his chest just seemed to get him going. Blair was someone who "refuses to comply with the code of practice on party funding, who calls for party openness but won't publish the secret funds of his own office..."

It all came pouring out. It was as though, having been the butt of personal remarks for more than two years of Tony Blair's Opposition leadership, and having, night after night, lain in bed repeating and repeating, sotto voce, all the things he might have replied but had always thought better of before, he

now let fly. On and on he went: ...Who attacks share options but takes money from millionaires for his own party; and asks them to fund things for him; who flew Concorde and failed to declare it ...

Was there no end to this? ...Who has a Deputy Leader (John Prescott) who spends a weekend at a fivestar hotel and doesn't declare it and who flies to the other side of the world to do newspaper deals and never admits to them. . . "

¬ inally, shortage of breath, if not material. brought his tirade to an end. But not before one final

outburst: "If there's any dou-ble standards, they sit there, on the Opposition benches!" he yelled. The Prime Minister sat down to perhaps the

loudest Tory cheers he has received all this session. Minules later, he left to renewed cheers, as many government backbenchers stood in the aisles, waving their order

In some ways those final fifteen minutes encapsulated tell-tale elements of the strengths and weaknesses of all three principal party leaders during this Parliament. Fighting like a tiger when cornered. Major was wellarmed in the detail but easilyneedled, losing stature and finding it hard to express

anger while keeping his cool Tony Blair was poised, effective and controlled, but a faint odour of sanctity hanging over his words (be chose. yesterday, to talk of a "stain" on government) left us uncertain whether this was a budding headmaster or an

officious head-boy. And Paddy Ashdown was well-judged, a little righteous, and completely ignored.

Judge will decide if woman can be left to die

By Frances GIBB, LEGAL CORRESPONDENT

THE country's most senior family judge will rule today whether a severely brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die. even though her condition may fall short of a persistent vegetative state.

In what is seen as a new right-to-dier test case. Sir Stephen Brown, president of the High Court family division, is being asked to widen the category of chronically ill patients where life-sustaining treatment can be withdrawn to let them die in peace and with dignity.

The case was brought before Sir Stephen as an emergency after the feeding tube slipped from the young woman who has been in a coma for 18 months. Since the tube became disconnected on Tuesday, the woman, known as Miss D, aged 29, has only been receiving liquids and medicine through intravenous

The judge has ruled in several past cases — including that of Tony Bland, the Hillsborough disaster victim - that life-sustaining treatment can be withdrawn because the patients were in apersistent vegetative state,

But in the present case, there is a dispute over whether the woman is in full PVS, as fined by the Royal College of Physicians, or "near PVS". Her eyes appear to track moving objects and she flinches if a gesture is made.

William Jennet, Professor of Neurology at Glasgow University and one of the experts consulted in Miss D's case. said yesterday that the hospital, with the backing of the woman's parents, had planned to seek permission to stop treatment anyway, but the tube disconnection gave

more weight to its case. "Reinsertion would require a minor surgical intervention. Not to insert it would be noninterventionist, which some people would find easier than active withdrawal of treat-David Chadwick, called by the

NHS Trust, said Miss D could linger for many years. "However I see no prospect of any improvement in her neuro-

logical state." Professor Chadwick said: "In this instance I would strongly support the wishes of a wholly remarkable family who have made astounding efforts to support Miss D and give her every form of stimulation and support towards any recovery that might have been possible

James Munby, QC, counsel for the Official Solicitor appointed to represent Miss D. who is formally opposing withdrawal of treatment, argued that the movements made by Miss D showed she was not in PVS. But Professor Chadwick

said it was simply a "primitive reflex" which "existed within the nervous system at a lower level than consciousness". The woman's mother told

the court that she agreed with the trust that artificial hydration and nutrition her daughter has been given should be discontinued. Huw Lloyd, counsel for the

trust, which, like all the parties in the case cannot be identified, told the judge the wo-man suffered from hydrocephalus when she was young. but went on to do well at school and go to university.

Then she was involved in a car accident which left her paralysed and with severe mental problem. She needed 24-hour care, but was looked after at home by her parents. In 1995 she suffered a seizure and was taken to hospital where she was treated for hydrocephalus again.

She finally opened her eyes but has not since regained any meaningful responsiveness," said Mr Lloyd. She had remained in hospital since. "It is the view of those who have examined her that she exhibits no cognitive evidence at all. that she is not aware and that no further change is likely. There is no medical intention to continue or reinstitute medi-



Beastly time: boys preparing to audition at the Dominion Theatre in London yesterday for Disney's £10 million production of Beauty and the Beast. They hope to play Chip, a child who is turned into a teacup

a flood of laws

By James Landale. Political reporter

THE Government rushed a flood of Bills through the Commons and the Lords last night, in time for this morning's prorogation of Parliament. Ministers and whips stuck to a right timetable to get as much as possible on the Statute Book.

minster today at the end of the year's session, but the fiveyear parliament will not formally come to a close until dissolution on April 8. After a fevered week of horsetrading by government and Labour business managers, most of the legislation was agreed and simply needed to be nodded

In the Lords, peers approved Commons amendments to the National Health Service (Primary Care) Bill, which now awaits Royal Assent to allow new experiments aimed at expanding the provision of GP services.

Peers also passed the Social Security Administration (Fraud) Bill. which allows councils and government de-

partments to combat benefit fraud by cross-checking their computer records.

The Building Societies (Dis-tributions) Bill passed its final stage in the Lords and should receive Royal Assent today. The measure is designed to ensure disabled and elderly investors receive their share the windfalls arising from the conversion of building societies to banks.

In the Commons, MPs approved Lords amendments to the Public Entertainments Licences (Drug Misuse) Bill. Following a Home Office concession, the amendments water down the proposals to allow councils to close down night clubs where there is a serious drugs problem.

MPs also agreed Lords' amendments to the Crime and Punishment (Scotland) Bill which will now go for Royal Assent. The measure introduces automatic life sentences for offenders who commit three violent or sexual crimes and increases sentencing pow-

ers of the Scottish courts.

Parliament clears | Cloning may have benefits, say MPs

By NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR THE cloning of human beings

should be banned, but the door left open for possible uses of the technique in medicine. the Science and Technology Committee of the House of Commons has recommended. In a report published yesterday, the committee warned at exaggerated reactions to Dolly - the cloned sheep

produced at the Roslin Institute in Edinburgh — could obscure the potential benefits of the technique. "This is a very significant, original piece of science that reflects great credit on British science." Sir Giles Shaw,

chairman of the committee, said. "The media furore saying that human cloning was just around the corner helped to diminish this work." The committee concludes that the regulations governing

cloning research in Britain are appropriate, but that doubts remain over whether the use

of the form of cloning devel-

oped at Roslin is forbidden in

humans. This is because the

1990 Human Fertilisation and

Embryology Act specifically refers to cloning using embryos, while the Roslin technique uses adult cells.

The HFEA and the Health Department are seeking legal advice over whether the act does cover the new technique. but the committee says that to ake sure, the act amended. "While counsel's opinion

will clarify the position, it will obviously not be a binding interpretation of the law," the report concludes. "It is not satisfactory for issues as momentous as this to be left until they are decided through test cases. We recommend that the Act should be amended to ensure that the Roslin tech-

nique comes within its scope." While it opposes human cloning, the committee says that the technique could produce cells or organs for medi-

"It might be acceptable to produce human cells at the petri dish level," said Dr Lynne Jones, a member of the

Britons keep growing

The height of the average Briton could rise by five inches (13cm) over the next few generations, according to an American professor. Better nourished mothers and a fall in smoking during pregnancy will produce healthier babies, Professor Robert Fogel, from Chicago University, told a meeting in London. Humans had a long way to go before reaching

Minister's son banned

their optimum height, size or life expectancy, he said.

Alexander Bonsor, right, 20, son of Sir Nicholas Bonsor, the Tory minister, was banned from driving for 14 months and ordered to pay fines and costs totalling £640 for a drink-driving "escapade". Bristol magistrates were told that officers saw sparks flying from undemeath the student's Ford Sierra and found Bonsor driving with eight fellow Bristol University students, including two in the boot.



Race to the death

The country's oldest and oddest horse race had an unhappy ending yesterday when the winning horse collapsed and died after crashing into a parked car. Sunny, a nine-year-old mare, failed to pull up after passing the winning post in the 471st running of the 4'z-mile Kiplingcotes Derby in east Yorkshire. It then collapsed of an apparent heart attack. Its jockey. Sheila Ashby, was unhurt,

The hoax skeleton in Arthur Conan Doyle's cupboard

By Daniel McGrory

THE finger of suspicion was pointed at Sir Arthur Conan Doyle yesterday as science's greatest hoaxer, the man who fooled the world with the discovery of Piltdown Man. Rival academics using detective skills worthy of Sherlock Homes,

were presenting their conflicting evidence in London. The discovery of "the earliest Englishman" in a gravel pit in Sussex in 1912 supposedly proved the missing link between man and ape

and was to fool science's finest minds

Conan Doyle's master detective,

for over 40 years. Long since satisfied that Piltdown Man was a crude forgery, scientists now cover their embarrassment by an annual battle to unmask the hoazer.

Richard Milner, a scientific historian from the American Museum of Natural History, believes Conan Doyle even left us clues as to his guilt in his adventure books. He is convinced the author planted the skull as his revenge on the scientific establishment by offering them proof of what they wanted to believe about mankind's ancestry.

Copnan Doyle lived near the excavation site and was a familiar figure at the Piltdown golf course. He was said to have littered his dinosaur adventure book Lost World in 1912 with clues about his hoax.

The scientific saga had begun the previous summer when Charles Dawson, a country solicitor and amateur archaeologist, was handed an unusually thick skullbone found by a farm labourer. Excited by the discovery, Dawson began digging in the gravelpit and a year later found the now infamous apelike jawbone the supposed missing link.

Professor Brian Gardiner, president of the Linnean Society of London, said yesterday: 1 remain convinced Piltdown Man was a glorious joke that simply got out of

However, Piltdown Man remained scientific fact until 1953, when Professor Gardiner was a young student working in the Natural History Museum. Senior academics there decided to take a more critical look. They promptly pronounced it a of a human skull and an orangutan jaw, which had been stained to give it the appearance of age.

Since then scientists have wrangled over the identity of the hoaxer and had at the last count a list of 27 suspects. The Linnean society has taken the lead in this scientific whodunnit.

At yesterday's debate, staged as part of National Science Week. Richard Milner explained how the battle between spiritualists like Conan Doyle and the materialist scientists was the motive for the hoax. *Conan Doyle was embittered by

the prosecution and trial of Henry Slade, an American and one of his favourite sidekicks, and was frankly fed up at being ridiculted by scientists. Piltdown Man was Conan Doyle's chance to teach the scientists a thing or to about evidence."

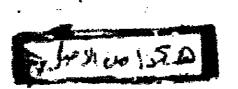
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Law lord's son waged vendetta

Vandal barrister scratched cars in revenge attacks

THE barrister son of a former law lord faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised two cars belonging to neighbours after a parking

Police arrested Hugh Donovan, 63, after setting up a 24-hour surveillance camera which recorded him creeping out of his house at night to scratch a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to Mark and Tracy Girling. The cars were parked in an affluent tree-lined street in Fulham, southwest London, where residents say parking is at a premium because the houses do not have drives.

During interviews with detectives. Donovan admitted damaging the cars with keys on eight separate occasions and may be disbarred at a Bar Council disciplinary hearing. West London Magistrates Court was told on Wednesday that Mr and Mrs Girling complained to police that their cars had been repeatedly vandalised outside their £450,000 terraced Victorian nome since an argument with Donovan in the street on December 23, 1995.

Adrian Foster, for the prosecution, said Donovan admitted damaging the cars for revenge after an altercation where he "called into question their parking and driving ability". Donovan, who was called to the Bar in 1959 but stopped practising as a barrister six years ago, pleaded guilty to two counts of criminal damage. Dressed in a pinstriped suit, he told the court that he was representing himself and handed over a letter of mitigation to the magistrate Dudley Thomas, which was not read out. When asked to explain his financial circumstances, he handed over a

letter from his accountant. Mr Thomas said: "Taking into account the matters you have put before me, I will take a preventative course of action

this activity again." Donovan was given a two-year conditional discharge with E30 court costs. He was also ordered to pay £7,441 compensation to the Girlings which he said he could pay within three

months. The barrister, who lives seven doors down from the Girlings with his wife Margarei, a schoolteacher, has two adult children. A Bar Council spokesman said: "There is a possibility he could be disbarred as a result of that hearing."
Residents in the a narrow

road lined with Victorian terraced houses, said that parking was often a problem because there was only room

6 People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses 🤊

for one car per household. James Stafford said: "Many people here own two, even three cars per household, so it is a terrible problem in the evenings when everyone comes home from work.

People do get very wound up about not being able to park near their houses. My car has been accidentally scratched a couple of times by people trying to squeeze into tiny spaces. However, that does not justify vandalism. It is a common problem of living in the middle of a big city." Another neighbour, who de-

clined to be named, added: "Mr Donovan is a very volatile man and I have had runins with him myself. He has even banged on the door to complain about my television

Teenage mother wins court backing for truancy

By David Charter

MAGISTRATES yesterday gave their backing to a schoolgiri mother who has skipped lessons for the past 18 months to look after her son. Kelly Turner was 13 when she fell pregnant and last attended lessons two months before the boy, Jake, was born.

ed: "He is a lovely man. We

have known him for the last 18

years. They are a fine upstand-ing Catholic family. It is

extremely sad for him. I am

Mr and Mrs Girling were

sure he will be devastated."

abroad on a skiing holiday and unavailable for comment,

but one neighbour said: "They

are a nice young couple with a

small baby. This has been a

Donovan's father, Lord

Donovan, was a Law Lord as

well as being chairman of the

Royal Commission on Trade

Unions and Employers' Asso-

Apart his judicial career

(High Court from 1950-60,

Court of Appeal from 1960 to

1963 and a Law Lord from

1963) the late Lord Donovan

was active in Labour politics.

In 1950 he was elected for

North East Leicester and

while the Labour Party was

still in power was offered a

judgeship. But it was his

chairmanship of the Royal

Commission on Trade Unions

and Employers' Associations

was known, was the first into the problems of industrial

relations for more than 60

years and was set up becasue

of the rise in the number of

strikes. But the report rejected

strong legislative regulation of industrial relations. He died,

Ironically in Donovan's

time at the Bar, at which he

became known for his work in

planning disputes, the barris-

ter found himself in one of his

last cases acting on behalf of a

group of residents complain-

ing about neighbourhood traf-

In April 1990, he acted in a

feud between Terence Dono-

van, the photographer, and

Jayne Mynors, the headmis-

tress of the exclusive Kensing-

ton kindergarten where

Princes William and Harry

aged 73, in 1971.

fic and noise.

The Donovan report, as it

which made his name.

are just glad it is all over."

Kelly's mother, 33-year-old Mandy Turner, was cleared of failing to send her back to Middlefield School in Gainsborough, Lincolnshire, after the birth. The Turner family successfully claimed they were offered no adequate long-term care for Jake, leaving Kelly with no alternative but to stay at home to look after him.

Lincolnshire County Council, which brought the prosecution, daimed the family were determined all along to oppose all its help and said it feared the case created a significant precedent. It raised the spectre of education authorities losing the power to order the hundreds of schoolgirls who fall pregnant every year back into the classroom.

Kelly, who lives with her mother, said: "I told the council I would go back to school, but only if they would help me provide proper care for Jake.'

Mrs Turner, who faced a possible fine of up to £1,000 or a jail sentence if convicted. said that the family were relieved the case was over. Mrs Turner said: "Kelly always stated that she wanted to go back to school if they could provide her with a permanent minder. But she was left with no alternative but to stay off because they would only provide help for

"Her son comes first, and she was not going to have him passed between people like a parcel. What sort of mother would I have been if I had stopped her?"

Andrew Jay, the family's solicitor, said: "The council refused to offer long-term assistance in looking after



Kelly Turner and her son, Jake: she has not attended class since her pregnancy

injury, they actually prosecuted Kelly's mother. Lincolnshire social services

offered to provide two months of childcare for the haby and the school was willing to rearrange Kelly's lessons to fit in with her own babysitting plans. Jeff Deakin, the county's educa-

the decision by the town's magistrates "went against the law of the land".

However the council does not plan to appeal because Kelly turns 16 in a few weeks and will be legally allowed to leave school.

Mr Deakin said: "This case could be of significance up trates, in considering the balance between Kelly in her role as a parent and Kelly in her role as a pupil, has concluded it is the former that

must take precedence." The Department for Education last night said that it was unable to comment until it had received details of the

Man of 75 denies attack on woman aged 84

By A Staff Reporter

A WAR veteran aged 75 punched a woman of 84 in the face when she tried to break with her son, a court was told yesterday. Marguerite Cameron plunged into a flower bed, suffering cuts to her face and knee, and bruises to her chest,

it was claimed. Her alleged assailant, Philip Butler, was arrested by police and told them he was also assaulted, with a rubber dustbin lid. Mr Butler, of Basingstoke, Hampshire, denies assaulting Mrs Cameron. causing her actual bodily harm.

Andrew Barnet, for the prosecution at Winchester Crown Court, said the incident happened on a pathway behind Mr Butler's home when council workmen began cutting down trees. There was a dispute between Mr Butler and Mrs Cameron's son Alan. a neighbour, who is in his

Mrs Cameron saw Mr Butler pushing her son and went out and told them to stop. Mr Barnet said: "Mr Butler punched her in the face sufficiently hard to push her back, causing her to fall."

Part of a garden cane be-came embedded in Mrs Cameron's face and she had to have an operation to remove the splinters. After his arrest Mr Butler told police he had been pushed and fell on Mrs Cameron by accident.

"He claimed he had been hit with a rubber dustbin lid by her son," Mr Barnet said. Mrs Cameron, now in a wheel-chair, told the court that her son had gone out to talk to the council workmen to try to stop them cutting down the trees. She said she saw Butler get hold of her son by the shirt and shake him, saying: "I'll

Mr Cameron told the jury he had been upset to see the trees being cut down. When he spoke to the council foreman he was told that Mr Butler had complained about falling branches Mr Butler then suddenly appeared from behind his hedge and attacked without provocation. The trial continues.

'Blessing traumatised boy of 12'

By RUTH GLEDHILL

A BOY aged 12 was so traumatised by a church youth weekend that he was unable to eat for 24 hours and could speak only in monosyllables, according to a report today in The Church Times.

Eleanor Theyer said her son Adam suffered a charismatic "indoctrination" when he lost consciousness after two worship leaders laid hands on his head and body during a weekend organised by her local church. Although the church was not Anglican, the phenomenon involved, known as the Toronto Blessing, is spreading throughout the evangelical wing of the estab-lished Church. When the blessing is invoked worship-pers jump up and down, faint, laugh or bark like dogs.

Writing under an assumed name to protect her son's identity. Mrs Theyer com-pared the events of the church weekend to the mind-control techniques of cults. I had never heard of the Toronto Blessing, she said. "My feeling on learning of what had happened was one of outrage. I felt that my child had been abused."

Mrs Theyer complained to her minister, who contacted the youth leaders concerned. They promised that the Toronto Blessing would no longer be invoked during youth ac-

Elegant widow, 74, was the victim of ritualistic killing

By Lin Jenkins

AN ELEGANT wealthy wid-ow who was half stripped, bound hand and foot and stabbed to death was the victim of a ritualistic killing,

police said yesterday.

Alice Rye, 74, died after letting her attacker into her detached home in the village of Spital, Merseyside. There were no signs of a struggle but she was taken into the spare bedroom, her hands tied behind her back, a bandage put round her neck, and stabbed in the chest

Police said elements to her injuries suggested that the killing in December was ritualistic with a sexual motive, but would not say if they believed there were religious or satanic overtones.

Detectives said that Mrs

Rye had meetings in a pub during the two years before she died with a man in his 60s who was unknown to her family and friends. They issued an artist's impression of the well-dressed man. The couple used to meet in the lounge of a pub on the edge of a council estate close to the M53, about ten miles from her

Mrs Rye, the widow of a company director, used to accompany her husband on business trips to China, Africa and Japan. She was described

as was strikingly attractive and immaculately dressed.

Staff and customers of the Twenty Row Inn, Wallasey. recall the elderly couple who differed from the usual clientele as they sat in an alcove having ordered a pint of bitter and a glass of white wine.

Detective Chief Inspector George Denton said the man appeared refined, smartly dressed and well-spoken, with a round face and white thinning hair. "The visits were in the afternoon, midweek, but there was never any regular pattern." he said. "The pub concerned could have been some midway meeting point for Alice and some former colleague. This is not the typically the type of pub she

would frequent. "Suggestions that these meetings might have been clandestine trysts with a gentleman are pure speculation. It could be that the pub was a convenient halfway point at which she arranged to meet up with a personal friend from her past, or business associate.

"Certainly at their age we would consider any friendship which she pursued was purely platonic. We have got to remain open-minded about it. but if this man can be ruled out of our inquires it will

Penguin to settle over royalties

By ROBIN YOUNG

THE estates of authors including Virginia Woolf and James Joyce are to receive more money after an agreement reached with Penguin Books over the payment of royalties. The books involved in the

deal returned to copyright at the beginning of last year when the European Union opted to extend copyright to 70 years after the author's death. Copyright in Britain had traditionally been 50 years.

Penguin has now reached agreement with the literary agents A. P. Watt and the Society of Authors, representing specific literary estates includ-ing those of Woolf, Yeats, Rudyard Kipling, Arthur Co-nan Doyle and John Buchan. The terms are likely to prove a model for the industry.

Margaret Bluman, Penguin's contracts director, said yesterday that each deal varied slightly but that Penguin's standard terms were 10 per cent of net receipts, meaning that the proportion paid in royalties would be calculated after discounts allowed to retailers, which in Penguin's case would often be up half of the wholesale price.

David Campbell, managing director of the hardback Everyman Library, said that he had also reached the basis of an agreement which he hoped to see finalised within a few

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. Tagged thief used monitor as free phone

By RICHARD FORD, HOME CORRESPONDENT

A THIEF who had been electronically tagged tapped into the BT line linked to the equipment to make 61 free telephone calls to his family. Stewart Palgrave was a social man who liked making calls to his mother and brother, his solicitor told

nis momer and promer, his solicitor told Norwich magistrates yesterday.
 The bill for the calls made by Palgrave.

 32 of Heathgate, Norwich, had to be paid by Geografix, the firm carrying out a tagging experiment throughout Norfolk. Palgrave, a fruit packer, had been litted with an electronic bracelet around his wrist and a telephone line was

his wrist and a telephone line was installed to his flat, where he was under curiew for offences of theft and attempted

John Pitt, for the prosecution, said the line into the flat was attached to a

monitoring box with a fitted antenna. An electronic signal is sent from the bracelet to the antenna if the curiew is broken, which Palgrave did on several occasions. The information is transmitted down the telephone line to the monitoring station. Last September it was discovered that

Palgrave had been tampering with the equipment. Mr Pitt said: "He had interfered with it so he could make personal telephone calls along the BT line. It seems he had another line and had tapped into the line." He said that the calls were billed to Geografix.

Palgrave had also snapped the antenna off the monitoring box. the court was told. Katharine Moore, his solicitor, told the court that he had been "curious" about the technology. She added: "He is

a social man. He was phoning his mother or brother". Palgrave led a chaotic and disorganised life and was unsuitable for electronic tagging linked to a curfew order, she added. He broke his curfew on 14 separate occasions, once for just six

Magistrates jailed Palgrave for four months after being told of his "awful performance" while under curiew. He was resentenced for the original offences for which he had been curfewed and a separate theft he admitted.

Andrew Hone, head of monitoring services with Geografix, said outside the court: "There are now a number of safeguards on the lines to prevent this happening. I would not like to say exactly

Ref halts

game after

player's

BY DANIEL MCGRORY

One in 20 needs drink to make it through day

By JEREMY LAURANCE HEALTH CORRESPONDENT

ONE in 20 people cannot get through the day without a drink because of alcohol dependence, according to a

Twice as many people are addicted to alcohol as to all other legal and illegal drugs and the level of dependence is a major social and medical actions the charity Alexand problem, the charity Alcohol Concern says.

The report, Measures for Measures, says that 1.3 million men and 500,000 women drink at "very risky" levels defined as over 50 units of alcohol a week tequivalent to 25 pints of ordinary beer, six bottles of wine or one and a half bottles of spirits). Recom-mended safe limits are 28 units a week for men and 21 units for women.

Excessive drinking causes 33,000 alcohol-related deaths each year and 28,000 hospital admissions. Alcohol is also involved in 15 per cent of deaths on the roads.

Eric Appleby, director, said: "While it is clearly important to address the problems caused by drug abuse, we must also take urgent action to tackle alcohol misuse which is ruining the lives of many more people.

The charity called for a national strategy to combat alcohol dependence, including measures to curb drinking among the young.

Pregnant terror suspect joins election race for her mother's former seat

McAliskey daughter to stand for **Parliament**

By NICHOLAS WATT, CHIEF IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

THE pregnant daughter of Bernadette McAliskey entered the election campaign yesterday with an announcement that she would contest her mother's old Mid-Ulster seat from a London prison cell. In a move reminiscent of the

successful campaign by the late hunger-striker Bobby Sands in 1981, Roisin McAliskey said she would attempt to oust the sitting Democratic Unionist MP if she is still in jail on polling day. The move angered Sinn Fein, jeopardising the chances of their candidate, Martin McGuinness, in a seat which

he had high hopes of winning. Miss McAliskey, 25, who is seven months pregnant, is being held at Holloway Prison awaiting extradition to Germany on charges of at-tempted murder and possession of explosives. The case in linked to an IRA mortar attack on a British Army base in Germany last June. She has

been refused bail while she

challenges the extradition. In a statement issued by her mother, she called on other nationalists to stand aside in the predominantly Catholic seat to give her a clear run against the hardline Rev Willie McCrea. Her mother, the then Bernadette Devlin, captured Mid-Ulster in 1969 at the age of 21.

Sinn Fein issued a terse statement saying that nation-alists should agree on a unity candidate if Miss McAliskey's anouncement was a "realistic proposition". However, the SDLP insisted that it would contest Mid-Ulster.

Leading members of Sinn Fein were understood to be furious with Mrs McAliskey. Miss McAliskey could eat into Mr McGuinness's vote by attracting support from both moderate and hardline nationalists who sympathise with her plight.

Although Catholics account for 60 per cent of the constituency's population, Unionists



Roisin McAliskey and her mother: their decision has angered Sinn Fein, which hopes to win mid-Ulster

PHONES

CORDLESS PHONES

have held the seat for more than 20 years because Sinn Fein and the SDLP both contest the seat. Mrs McAliskey, who stood as an independent nationalist was the first victim of the split vote in February 1974 when the SDLP stood against her.

The tight electoral arithmetic means that Miss McAliskey could upset Sinn Fein's strategy of winning up to three seats at the election. Gerry Adams, the party president, is widely tipped to recap-

digitai

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ture West Belfast because changes worked in his favour. Mid-Ulster is second on the party's target list and Sinn Fein could win the new seat of West Tyrone if Unionists fail to agree on a single candidate. Sinn Fein knows that if it wins more than one seat, the new Government will face tremendous pressure to hold bilateral

talks with the party. Mrs McAliskey said that her daughter had decided to contest Mid-Ulster to put pres-

sure on the authorities to release her before the birth of her child. Mrs McAliskey. 49, said: "In the face of the continued refusal of the British court to acknowledge her right to bail and the British administration's racist belliqerence, insult and inhumanity we feel this may be her only opportunity to secure her release before the birth of her

Mrs McAliskey's decision to encourage her daughter to stand appeared to mark her

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legal threat ALL 22 players in a badtempered football match faced being sent for an early bath after one of them threatened to sue the referee if he ended up injured. The official halted the game in the Jewson Wessex League and marched to the touchline for a 20-minute consultation with linesmen about his legal liability. Confused players from Thatcham Town and their visitors, Portsmouth RN, milled about as the referee.

Andy Young, sought assur-ances that he was indemnified from prosecution. The interruption came late in the second half after the Portsmouth full back shouted:

"I'm going to sue you, ref, if I get my leg busted." As the officials consulted. both managers assured them they would not be hiring barristers in the event of injury. The referee was per-suaded to let battle recommence and Thatcham won 4-2: back survived

Mr Young refused to comment yesterday. The Football -Association said: "Anyone can... sue anyone if they feel so inclined. But our rule 13 states. A referee shall not be held liable for any kind of injury suffered by player, official or spectator." If a player thought a game too rough, it was up to him to tell his captain he wanted to go off:



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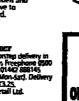
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M25 to get 12 lanes around Heathrow By Kevin Eason

MOTORING EDITOR

latest skirmish with the Sinn

Fein leadership. The former MP was a vehement opponent

of the IRA ceasefire and fam-

ously remarked on the day

that it was declared in August

1994: "The war is over and the

In a debate on the peace

process in West Belfast, just

before the first anniversary of

the ceasefire in 1995, Mrs

McAliskey virtually silenced

Mr Adams when she stood up

and asked: "Gerry, what is

good guys lost."

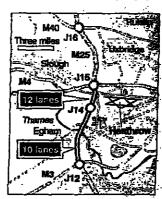
your plan B?"

THE country's busiest motorway is to become the widest after the Government announced plans yesterday to make parts of the M25 six lanes in each direction.

The 12-lane stretch will be on the west side of the London ring road, between junction 4, the Heathrow airport turnoff, and junction 15, the turnoff for the M4.

Another section, between unctions 12 and 14, which links the M25 to the M3, will be widened to five lanes in each direction. The M25 is tween junctions 12 and 15, but

is often jammed. John Watts, a Transport Minister, gave the go-ahead for the £93 million lane-widening scheme, which he described as "an important step forward in the relief of congestion for this very busy motorway". The new six-lane highway would mean that the M25 could cope with traffic growth into the next century.
The decision was welcomed



11.25

L

which have campaigned for action to relieve the misery of arrying on Europe's most congested motorway. However, campaigners against plans for a new fifth terminal at Heathrow will be dismayed. Improved road links could be an important factor in favour of building the new terminal.

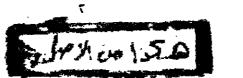
The widening scheme is being introduced after the Government was forced to scrap plans for A-road links that would have run alongside the M25, effectively creating a 14-lane highway.

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Britai expla United

Bishops

angry at

secret

deal on

TV ads

By RUTH GLEDHULL RELIGION CORRESPONDENT A LEADING Church of England bishop last night dis-tanced the Church hierarchy

from a television advertising campaign organised by two dioceses over Easter.

The commercial, which fea-

tures people praying while they drive a car, wait for a bus or visit the hairdresser, has

caused a furious debate among Church leaders, who

are angry that they were not consulted. Details of the

advertisement were leaked

to Campaign magazine

The Bishops of Birmingham

and Lichfield, in whose dioces-

es the advertisments will appear, knew of the scheme, as did the Archbishop of

Church of England. I was

absolutely flabbergasted

THE TIMES FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997 Wounded fans say tactics by Portuguese police nearly caused another Hillsborough

Britain demands explanation on United shootings

By John Goodbody and Adrian Lee

THE Foreign Office yesterday demanded a detailed report from Portuguese police, who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber and plastic bullets.

lyer's

athrow

Supporters returning from their team's match against FC Porto in Oporto on Wednes-day night complained of police brutality that left 18 fans needing hospital treatment. Uefa, the European football governing body, began an inquiry into the violent events that marred United's 0-0 quarter final clash, which was attended by 10,500 English

Delfim Passos, the Oporto police chief, said: "We fired plastic and rubber pellets in the air and on the ground to contain the English fans. We did not use excessive force. We have a clear conscience."

He told a press conference: "The police were obliged to act because of the situation created by the United fans." He said that 18 police officers had been injured, one seriously, as United supporters threw chunks of china from smashed stadium lavatories.

In the most combustible incident involving an English club in European football competitions since the 1985

Heysel stadium disaster, fans also alleged chaotic organisation. They said police behav-iour might have caused another Hillsborough disaster. Fans were treated for

batons and pellet wounds.
United, which won the twoleg European Cup quarterfinal tie 40 on aggregate, set up its own investigation while the Foreign Office ordered a full report from Portuguese police. The disciplinary com-minee of Uefa will discuss its independent observer's investigation on Tuesday.

crush injuries, bruising from

When shocked United fans arrived back on charter flights at Ringway Airport, Ashley Maddock, 15, from Chester, displayed a foot-long weal across his shoulders. He said: "People were being pushed in a funnel, and they could see there was no escape. You either took your chances of being crushed or faced the police, who did not want

anyone to leave the area." Ken Farrimond, one of United's security managers, said: "It could have been another Hillsborough." He described the shepherding of thousands of visiting fans down a narrow cobbled back-street before the "a recipe for trouble". The problems increased inside the stadium before the game began. Mrs Ali Crimes, from Salford, said that United supporters were crammed into tightly packed pens on towering terraces and they had to tear away fences to stop them-

selves being crushed. Kevin Jones, 28, from Wrex-ham, North Wales, was brought off a plane in a wheelchair and taken by ambulance to Wythenshawe Hospital after being hit in the leg by a rubber bullet, fired after the game. About 650 police, including the riot squad, were on duty, supported by 150 security officers from Manchester.

"There was a crowd of us trying to get out of a gate which officials would not open," Mr Jones said. "Suddenly the gates were opened and we saw the police facing us through a gap a couple of feet wide. They opened fire without warning. I was hit and screamed with pain. We had done nothing wrong."

Oporto police, who in the mid-1970s were involved in another shooting incident when four Benfica followers died, at first denied that they had used plastic pellets to control the United fans.



A Manchester United supporter with a plastic pellet fired by police; they can break the skin and cause shallow wounds

THE plastic pellets fired at Manchester United fans are favoured by several European police forces. About a quarter of an inch in diameter, they are much smaller than the plastic baton rounds, commonly described as bullets, used in Northern Ireland. They are contained in cartridges which scatter about 15 pellets when fired.

By Adrian Lee

The Banelli anti-riot pellets

'An indiscriminate weapon' the ground to bounce up or at legs. They can break the flesh and leave shallow wounds.

> the head. One expert said yesterday that he was amazed that the pellets, which travel at 1,000ft per second, had been fired at football fans. "They are totally indiscriminate and fired from close range can do a lot of damage. They are supposed

Supporters in Oporto showed

injuries to their lower bodies

they can easily hit the face or the eye." The practice of firing into the ground and bouncing the pellets into targets is known as "skip firing".

In Northern Ireland, 16

and arms. One man was hit in

Canterbury, but the Archbish-op of York and most of the Church's 44 diocesan bishops did not. The Right Rev Nigel McCulloch, Bishop of Wakefield and head of the Church's communications committee, said: This advertisement alarms me. This is not the

people have been killed and more than 500 injured by plastic bullets, which were first used in 1973. They have never been used on the mainland. In skilled hands, baton rounds are regarded as more accurate than pellets and it is possible to pick out individual

when I learnt about it. I could not believe it, after all we have been through with previous advertising campaigns." As head of the communica tions committee, he would have expected to be one of the first to know. "Until yesterday, I knew absolutely nothing about this advertising initia-tive," he said. "I recognise that

it is an attempt by individuals to make creative use of television in order to encourage people to go to Church. But I am convinced that, as far as the Church of England is concerned, we simply cannot go on creating this kind of publicity without reference to

other people in the Church."

Bishop McCulloch will be calling a meeting of all those involved in church advertising to formulate a coherent policy for the future. He said: "The impression is being given that what these two dioceses are doing has the full backing of the Church of England. But the communications committee of the General Synod had at no stage been informed about this initiative."

Alcohol and police inexperience made trouble predictable it off as fireworks, the overworked tion, Graham Kelly, the FA Chief

THE portents of Oporto went unheeded, with very nearly tragic consequences. On Tuesday at Manchester Airport, even at 82m, the departure lounge heaved with loud and boisterous Manchester United fans, and you would not have put a lighted match to the mouths of many. Once United's charter plane had reached Oporto, they were there again by the score, cavorting on the carousel as United's players waited for their

luggage.
Where was the security? Adrian Titcombe, the Football Association safety officer, was in attendance as a discipline and cracked his baton an observer, and a worried man he

uncannily accurate prediction from Marilia Astle, one of the British Embassy staff from Lisbon sent to monitor the event and to attempt to diffuse the situation in advance: she said there would be 10,000 Manchester fans for whom only 6,400 tickets had been allocated.

On to the stadium, to the main event in which United were to be praised for ensuring that FC Porto fired only blanks. Immediately outside the Estadio Das Antas, one saw the first riot squad excess. A group of youths was baying at the militia, one officer of the law lost his heavily on to a shaven head. Before



The Portuguese police may have been unprepared, but that is no excuse for the drunken misbehaviour of so many English football fans, says Rob Hughes, chief sports writer

three taken to hospital and at least one with baton wounds.

The problem outside the ground was scarcely known to us, even though security staff were in radio communication throughout. But at the end of the game, a red flare was lit on the United terracing. Immed-

If the fans were all innocent, why had one brought such a weapon, similar to the rocket which killed a spectator at Cardiff Arms Park a few seasons ago?

Within seconds of that, we heard the first volleys of gunfire. There -were two specific rounds, and

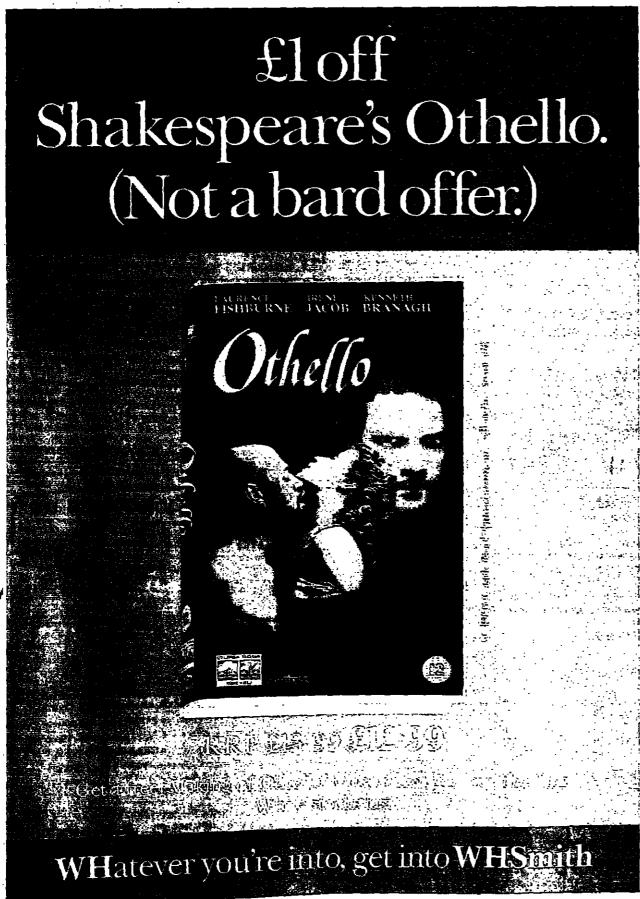
medical staffs were deployed taking out five wounded United fans. Even then the police were insisting: "Not a single shot was fired."

Even then some of the walking wounded were showing to the press the pellets, small and perfectly round like peas, and the announcements, in English, were repeatedly calling for calm, instructing the United followers to remain in their steel cages until the police could

ensure their safe removal. But it was the police themselves whom the tans now leared and those Mancunians taken away in wheelchairs were too frightened to give their names. After the evacua-

Executive, perpetuated the illusion of English innocents being fired upon irrationally by foreign police forces. Mr Kelly had not been on the trip, but he took the judgment that the English are victims. They are, many of them, but when will this country, step, excepting so-called country stop exporting so-called supporters, fuelled by drink and without legitimate tickets, and then blame foreign police forces for not coping in the same manner as our

They have, abroad, no real experience, no grounds fully monitored by closed circuit cameras, and not the ease of language or the past history





Deaths from new CJD strain 'may run to thousands'

By MICHAEL HORNSBY, AGRICULTURE CORRESPONDENT

TENS of thousands of people may die from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, the brain condition linked to BSE, scientists said yesterday.

A year to the day since the Government admitted the likelihood of the link, the scientists told the first national conference of relatives of CJD victims that it was still impossible to predict how many people were likely to die. "We still have to say that there is a range from the odd 100 or so cases right through to tens of thousands," John Pattison, Professor of Medical Microbiology at University College London, said.

Dr Pattison, who heads the Government's advisory com-mittee on CJD and BSE, said at Warwick University that the number of cases of the new strain of CJD arising in the next two or three years would he crucial.

On March 20 last year. Stephen Dorrell, the Health Secretary, disclosed that ten cases of a variant of CJD with a distinctive brain pathology. had probably been caused by eating beef contaminated with BSE. Since then six more cases have been diagnosed.

Peter Smith, Professor of Tropical Epidemiology at the London School of Hygiene and Tropical Medicine, said: It would be premature to

big epidemic of the new strain of CJD simply because no more than 16 cases had been confirmed so far."

The key uncertainty, Professor Smith said, was the length of the incubation period. If this varied widely between individuals, there could be a surge in the number of people developing the disease. "If the number of cases in each of the next three years is roughly constant, and less than about 20 a year, a final size of the epidemic may well be a few hundred cases or less.

"If there are 25 or more cases confirmed this year. with a doubling or tripling in each of the following two years, that would be compatible with ... an epidemic of many thousands of cases." Exposure of the public to

contaminated meat is thought to have occurred in the mid-1980s before safeguards were introduced, suggesting an incubation period of about ten years in those who have died from the new strain. It differs from the classical form of the disease in attacking people

The scientists said if a typical incubation period turned out to be no more than ten to 15 years, the total cases of the new disease would be relatively low. But it was possible that those who had died had a genetic susceptibility which caused the disease to

develop more quickly. Dr Pattison said: "It may be that the cases we have seen 50 far are a small group of people with a short incubation period, for reasons we do not understand, and that the peak of the disease will be seen in

John Collinge, a specialist in molecular genetics at St Mary's Hospital Medical School in London, told the conference that the evidence for a link between BSE and new-variant CJD was "persuasive" and should be accepted as "a working hypothesis". No cure for CJD was in sight. Professor Collinge said. But some forms of treatment were worth exploring. The most hopeful was the use of drugs to influence the behaviour of the mutant prion protein thought to cause the disease. The disease appeared to be caused when this rogue protein at-

tacked its healthy neighbours. The conference was organised by the CJD Support Network, set up two years ago to help families of victims by the Alzheimer's Disease Society. Dot Churchill, whose son Stephen, 19, was the first victim of the new variant and who died in May 1995, said: All the families want to see a full independent inquiry into the Government's handling of



How statues to Darwin, left, Brunel and Baird might look along The Mall. The site has not been decided

Scientists pick all-time Top 50

By Alan Hamilton

ACADEMICS were considering a monumental challenge yesterday: who should inhabit

an avenue of statues honour ing British inventive genius? Iain Sproat, National Heritage Minister, wants to recognise Britain's long history of science and engineering achievement to mark the millennium. The trouble is, there are so many candidates.

Sir Neil Cossons, director of the Science Museum, has agreed to chair a committee to draw up an initial list of 50. The site is undecided, but might be on the South Bank or at South Kensington, among the museums and colleges built on the proceeds of the 1851 Great Exhibition.

Mr Sproat, who hopes the scheme will be funded half by Monumental debate to choose the statues to British genius

a National Lottery Millennium grant and half by private industry, said: "We have a proliferation of statues to actors, writers, soldiers, kings and queens, but the engineers, scientists and discoverers whose contribution has been equally great are seri-ously under-represented."

His own favoured candidates include the agrarian reformer Turnip Townsend, Sir Isaac Newton, James Watt and George Stephenson of the steam engine, Sir Frank Whittle of the jet engine, Sir Alexander Fleming of penicillin, Sir Christopher Cockerell of the hovercraft, the math-

ematician Alan Isambard Kingdom Brunel John Logie Baird of television, and Barnes Wallis, of

A straw poll of scientists by The Times yesterday indicated stong support for the inclusion of Charles Darwin. and of the Victorian mathematician James Clerk Maxwell, whose contribution to physics is regarded as being on a par with Newton and

Archie Howie, professor of physics at Cambridge University, made an appeal for Lord Rutherford, splitter of the atom, J.J. Thomson, discover-

Sir Arnold Wolfendale, pro-

fessor of experimental physics at the Royal Institution and a former Astronomer Royal. nominated the astronomer Sir John Herschel, discoverer of the planet Uranus, and Sir Charles Parsons, the Newcastle engineer who invented the steam turbine.

Dr Miriam Rothschild, the eminent biologist, loyally nominated her father, Charles, who died in 1923: He invented the whole concept of nature conservation."

Several scientists said that erecting statues to the dead was a waste of effort. They said the money would be put to better use providing scholarships to train the next generation of British genius.

Gene tests show killer flu came from pigs

By NIGEL HAWKES SCIENCE EDITOR

SCIENTISTS have confirmed that the flu virus which swept around the world in 1918, killing 20 million people, originated in pigs.

Samples taken from the lungs of a young soldier who died in the epidemic provided enough genetic material to prove the hypothesis, says a report in Science. The investigation, by a team at the US. Armed Forces Institute of Pathology, was made more difficult by the way flu stores its gene information in the form of RNA (ribonucleic acid), notthe more stable DNA.

Most flu viruses are believed to originate in birds, usually ducks. They are passed to pigs, which is why so many originate in China. where ducks and pigs are. raised in close proximity.

The new investigation shows that the 1918 virus, a particularly virulent one, was completely novel. Hardest hit by it were young adults. usually the most resistant to flu infection. The American team is to continue examination of the RNA samples to try

to find the cause. John Oxford, of the London Hospital Medical College, has begun a similar examination. A Canadian team plans to dig up seven miners believed to have died of the 1918 flu, who are buried in frozen ground in Norway. They hope the bodies will be so well preserved that better samples can be obtained.

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NEWS IN BRIEF

Diver wins £266,000 for accident A diver was awarded £266,000

damages at the High Court yesterday for an accident which ended his career as an offshore worker in the North Sea. Philip Zammitt, 39, was left dangling helplessly in 85 metres of water for 40 minutes after devéloping cramp during a six-hour dive. He suffered a psychiatric injury and devel-Mr Justice Garland agreed

that Stena Offshore allowed Mr Zammitt, of Southampton, said afterwards that he owed his life to Stephen Mudge, another diver.

Ideal home

Arlington Court, near Barn-staple, North Devon, was voted best historic house in the National Heritage Awards sponsored by the pensions company NPI. The 1820s National Trust building is the former home of the Chichester family. The previous winner was Chatsworth, Derbyshire.

Crane boy hurt

A 14-year-old boy suffered leg injuries when he was run over by a mobile crane after he and five other teenagers broke into a Gloucester building site and drove the machine around. He suffered severe cuts and was taken to Frenchay Hospital, Bristol. where he was in satisfactory condition.

Rustlers strike

Rustlers have taken 40 continental cross-breed steers from the Government's agricultural research centre at Hillsborough, Co Down. They were put on a trailer during the night. A spokesman for the centre said the cattle were healthy and were being tested on a range of diets.

Lucknow sale

Two medals awarded to Lieutenant-Colonel George Biddulph, whose death at the second relief of Lucknow in 1857 was avenged within an hour by the killing of 1,500 Indians, fetched £1,325 at a Phillips auction in London.

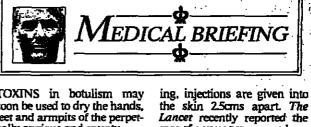
Spiked food

Tinned food for hedgehogs, designed to supplement their diet of worms, slugs and beetles through the summer, is being sold at Saleway stores. The cans of Spikes Dinner contain crushed chicken carcass and include advice on feeding the animals.

CORRECTION

The European Communities (Amendment) Bill was sponsored by Lord Pearson of Rannoch and not, as reported on March 19, by Lord Taverne, who led the opposition to the Bill.

No sweat, a little poison can be good



TOXINS in botulism may soon be used to dry the hands, feet and armpits of the perpetually auxious and sweaty.

Botulism poisoning may develop from four hours to eight days after taking food contam-inated with the organism. Practically any sort of food is liable to contamination, but badly tinned vegetables, meat and fish are often the culprits. drooping eyelids and a dry mouth, soon followed by difficulty in speaking and swallowing and eventually by a paralysis that includes mus-

cles involved in breathing. Over the past few years, preparations of botulinum toxin have been used for injection so as to deliberately paralyse muscles, such as around the neck and eyes, that have gone into spasm suffered involuntary movements. It is also used in cosmetic medicine to treat those whose brows are unnecessarily furrowed. When used to control sweat-

last. Another medical journal, Medical Monitor, has reviewed similar treatment of excessively sweaty armpits. Patients with palm injections may develop a minimal muscle weakness in the hands. Doctors are warned that injections must not be given at the same time as certain antibiotics, and that anaphylactic reactions - ex-

treme allergies producing col-lapse — have been recorded.

case of a young woman whose

dripping hands prevented her from working. Within 24 hours of the injection, the skin around the site had stopped

sweating. Within a week, the

whole palm was dry. She

suffered no recurrence in the

next 312 months, but it is not

known now long the effect w

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Officers under fire for tolerating racism in Services

By Michael Evans, defence correspondent

THE Royal Navy has been accused of tolerating racism and not being entitled to call itself an equal opportunities employer. Efforts to recruit more personnel from the eth-nic minorities were denigrated as "political correctness".

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m pigs

In a survey of the Armed Services and civil servants working for the Ministry of Defence, white sailors com-monly admitted that they did not think black people were suitable for the Royal Navy. It was claimed that "they" did not like water, could not fight. and lacked educational quali-fications. In the Army, black people were said to be "lazy" while Asians were considered

Some white naval officers made remarks such as: "Where would you pray to Mecca on a submarine?"

The survey, commissioned by the MoD from the Office for Public Management, a private consultancy, found evidence of racism in all three A services. Helen Brown, one of the authors of the report, said that the MoD was "among the worst ministries* for anitudes on race relations, although she acknowledged that, since the report had been completed last September, the ministry had taken steps to enforce equal opportunity policies.

However. Dr Brown said that the MoD had a long way to go to catch up with the 1990s". One of the problems, the report said, was that senior officers in the services did not accept that racism existed, so they did not feel the need to tell those under their did not feel the haviour and attitudes remain

command not to make racist a significant feature of life in remarks.

We find it disappointing that there is still relatively little acknowledgement of the pervasive, long-running and deeply entrenched problem of

racism within the Armed Services," the report said.

A senior official in the Ministry of Defence said that the report had raised serious issues and admitted that changes could not be introduced "overnight". The three Service chiefs, the Chief of the

6 RAF had an unwritten rule of 'no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs' on VIP parades 9

Defence Staff and the Permanent Under-Secretary at the ministry were all, he said, committed to ensuring that racist attitudes were "stamped

The investigators found that, in the RAF, the unwritten rule for parades or guards of honour assembled to meet VIPs was "no blacks, Pakis, spots or specs".

Army officers interviewed by the survey team admitted that the typical officer was seen as white, male and middle class. The report said: "Ra-

the Army." Calling people racist names such as "Snowy" and "Moonlight" was dis-missed as "robust humour".

openly resistant, if not hostile, to the prospect of a significantly larger presence of people from black minority communities within the Army". The latest figures showed that only 1.5 per cent of nearly 75,300 army personnel identified themselves as black or Asian. The most senior recorded black officer held the rank of lieutenant-colonel.

The report's section on the Navy was the most scathing. Although the Navy had an "excellent" statement of equal opportunities in its recruitment literature, it was "not matched by day-to-day understanding or practice". The report said: "We believe on the basis of the evidence available to us through this short study that the Royal Navy is not iustified in describing itself as an equal opportunities employer under the terms of the Race Relations Act."

It added: "The conventions of a seafaring tradition result in a level of awareness of cultural diversity which is ten or 20 years behind that of society at large, and which can reasonably be said to constitute institutional racism."

The survey team discovered a "huge complacency" about race questions which was underpinned by "anxiety that the comfortable lifestyle of the white majority could be threatened if race issues were given more prominence".

> Cook and Dudley Moore, Recreated highlights will include Verdi's Macbeth, which was the first opera performed at the festival in i947. Then the Glyndebourne Festival Opera brought the house down. This year the Royal Opera will present the original and rarely per-

> Party, which was premiered at the 1949 festival in the poet's presence, with a cast



Bruno Walter and Kathleen Ferrier at the first festival in 1947; many international stars have followed

Edinburgh Festival revives its greatest hits for 50th birthday

THE Edinburgh Festival cel-ebrates its fiftieth birthday this year with a look back at some of the classic performances from its history.

The organisers aim to recreate early hits using a new generation of artists this summer. Brian McMaster, the festival director, announced the programme yesterday and promised that the event would be "a real humdinger". There will be four world premieres among 100 productions running

from August i0 to 30. The festival, claimed to be the world's largest cultural event, has over the years attracted performers includ-ing Joan Sutherland, Margot Fonteyn, Marlene Dietrich. Luciano Pavarotti, Peter

formed 1847 version. T.S. Eliot's The Cocktail

a "monumental" Salzhurg Festival production of Che-khov's The Cherry Orchard, Irene Worth, will return to the stage with the Royal directed by Peter Stein.

Lyceum Theatre Company. In the spirit of past festi-Some momentous events, however, will not be reprised, vals, attempts have been such as an avant-garde made to keep ticket prices low "happening" in 1963 where to enable people to see as much as possible. But while most productions start at £5, the appearance of a nude on stage so shocked Edinburgh sensibilities that producer for the first time the top ticket and model were prosecuted price has risen to £50. for indecency. They were defended successfully by the

late Nicholas Fairbairn. Apart from retrospective events, the programme includes a celebration of Gaelic Provost of Edinburgh, wrote culture, performances by an Aboriginal dance group and in the programme foreword

commercial undertaking in any way" but rather an endeavour to provide a stimulus to the establishing of a new way of life based on the arts. "Edinburgh hopes that visitors will refresh their souls and reaffirm their belief

al," he wrote. Last year saw record audi-Mr McMaster, who took the helm at the festival in ences and box office income of more than £2 million, as 1992, said he believed the well as record sponsorship. ideals behind the event in As a result the year's project-1947 were still present. Then, ed £125.000 deficit was just Sir John Falconer, the Lord £48,000. But Mr McMaster

said: "Year on year we have taken huge gambles and so far we have been lucky." In 1947 the festival budget was £130,000, the equivalent of £2.6 million in today's terms, which paid for 55 productions. The castle was floodlit for four days despite the fuel restrictions of the postwar era. In 1997 about £5.8 million will be spent.

in things other than materi-

Mr McMaster said his first visit to the festival in 1963 had been a seminal event. He wanted others to be similarly affected. "I believe that art can change people's lives. That sounds silly and pretentious, but I think the arts can touch people, make them live better lives and expand their emotional reactions."

Stonehenge tour train backed by **English** Heritage

BY DAVID LOVIBOND AND ROBIN YOUNG

A TOURIST development for Stonehenge has been ap-proved by government archae-ology advisers, despite criticism from conser-

English Heritage has accepted the idea of a trackless land-train to tour the stones from a visitor centre. The proposal came from the Tussauds Group, which won the bid to build the new centre on the fringes of the World

Heritage site. Sir Jocelyn Stevens, the English Heritage chairman, said: "We would not do anything to destroy archaeology. The point is to save Stone-henge. At the moment, one million people are driving to within 300 yards of the stones. We will be trying to get them there in a way that is environ-

mentally friendly."

An English Heritage report on the proposals acknowledges that some monuments would be damaged by the necessary works and that at least some of the route would be visible from Stonehenge. However, most of the two-mile route would follow existing trackways, and the land-train of linked carriages would not

need rails. The plan was criticised by Kate Fielden, secretary of Ave-bury Society, whose remit extends to Stonehenge. She said: "The established aim is to return the monument to its landscape and the emphasis is on removing extraneous features. It is simply not on to have a Disneyland railway in

a World Heritage site."
The Wiltshire county archaeologist, Roy Canham, said that an original proposal for a short ride from the visitor centre to King Barrow would have allowed visitors "to slow to the pace of the landscape including VDUs in the trains, as they do, they will offer a plastic experience."

The Tussaud project has been given agreement in principle by the National Trust, which owns most of the land. If the Millennium Commission also approves, English Heritage expects the first trains to run in 2000.

a matter of urgency". Major Swift was killed at the age of ons expert was highlighted in The Times yesterday. Mrs Swift, 38, said that she 40 when the rifle-launched grenade he was testing explod-

Major writes to officer's widow

THE Prime Minister has written to the widow of an army. major killed in a grenade accident in Oman (Michael Evans writes). She had waited three years for the Ministry of Defence to respond to her pleas for compensation and details of how he died.

The case of Deborah Swift's struggle to find out how her husband, Tony, was killed in the Omani Army as a weap-

had suddenly received letters from John Major and Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, offering to help. Mr Major told her the MoD had agreed to handle any claim for compensation and that ministry officials would be making

ed prematurely in June 1994. An Omani inquiry said it must have been a faulty grenade, but the evidence had been destroyed in the explosion.

Mrs Swift, of Fleet, Hampshire, said: "It makes me angry that only now have I



The premiere of The Cocktail Party in 1949

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Spin doctors

ITV regulator is likely to approve Blair-Major clash

By JILL SHERMAN, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

THE Independent Television that it would approve a tele-Major and Tony Blair, excluding Paddy Ashdown.

Senior sources from the regulator of independent television said that the latest proposals from ITV, under which the Liberal Democrat leader would be questioned separately, appeared to comply with its code on impartialbroadcasters to show balance throughout the general election campaign, but this would not have to apply to every

Yesterday the Liberal Democrats repeated their threat to take legal action if Mr Ashdown was not involved in a three-way debate. Lord Holme, who is leading the Liberal Democrat negotiating team, accused the Tories of deliberately trying to bounce the other parties into an agreement. He claimed that opinion polls had shown that 75 per cent of the public

Democrats involved. The Tory party, in its arrogance, is trying to bounce the agenda. I think it is disgraceful. We shall certainly

wanted to see the Liberal

It would be more difficult, however, for a judge to find in favour of the Liberal Demo-

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crats if the commission had raised no objection. Under the latest plan, which

appears to be favoured by both the Tories and Labour over a second proposal from the BBC, Mr Ashdown would be interviewed but would not debate with Mr Major and Mr

All three leaders would make short opening statements and each leader would be asked one question. Then the Prime Minister would debate with Mr Blair for about 25 minutes, with Jonathan Dimbleby in the chair.

Mr Ashdown would then face questioning on his own, before another 30-minute slot when Mr Blair and Mr Major would be cross-questioned by a panel including Sue Lawley and Michael Brunson.

Under the BBC's plan. which the Prime Minister thinks is too rigid, he and Mr Blair would face questions from David Dimbleby. They would be asked six questions each and allowed two replies, each two minutes in length. Mr Ashdown would then be interviewed for 16 minutes, then there would be statements from all three party

Last night Labour said that it was prepared to negotiate with both channels. The party stipulated only that the format be legal and that there be an

audience. Although Labour has argued that Mr Ashdown should be involved it is not pressing for his inclusion in a

Derry Irvine, Shadow Lord Chancellor, is the head of Labour's negotiating team. Michael Dobbs, a former vicechairman of the Tory party, is leading John Major's team.

Mr Major is still pressing for two or three head-to-head debates on the Sundays during the general election campaign.

The continuing dispute over the televised debate coincided with a new report claiming that such programmes had little impact on election results. A paper, published by the Hansard Society, says that audience participation should be included in any debate broadcast during the general

The document, by Dr Stephen Coleman, an academic student of elections, also argues that no party leader "who can reasonably expect to win enough votes to become prime minister should be excluded

Dr Coleman's report proposes a debate involving all three main party leaders and separate debates for Scotland and Wales. Under his proposed plan all three leaders would be able to cross question each other.



SNP promises lower taxes

BY SHIRLEY ENGLISH

THE Scottish National Party yesterday promised tax cuts for low earners and promised to restore student grants and state benefits for 16 and 17ear-olds when it published its budget for an independent

The 30-page document gave details of Scotland's spending over four years of independence, with annual expenditure reaching £2 billion in the fourth year. The low rate tax

would be cut from 20p to 15p, but higher earners would be hit by the abolition of the ceiling on national insurance

To compensate middle earners, the level of income taxed at basic rate would be expanded by 15 per cent. The SNP would also cut VAT on fuel to 5 per cent and raise tobacco duty by 15 per cent and reduce spirit duties by 10 per cent. Pensions would rise by five per cent.

John Swinney, the party's

TOP BRAND VIDEOS-

Treasury spokesman, said: "It is our aim in this election to switch the focus of economic debate in Scotland away from how we fare as a regional outpost of the UK, and towards what we can achieve as an independent nation."

An Edinburgh-based whisky company announced yesterday that it was dropping the SNP logo from the labels of its 'Independence' blend because they were unpopular with hoteliers and public

Chalker to quit world aid post

By POLLY NEWTON

BARONESS CHALKER will retire as Minister for Overseas Development after the elecion, it was announced yesterday. Lady Chalker, who as Lynda Chalker was MP for Wallasev for 18 years until she lost the seat to Labour in 1992. front bench in the House of Lords whatever the result of

She said in her resignation letter to the Prime Minister: As you know, I am deeply committed to continuing development work in Africa and now leel that I should do this independently."

John Major replied that she had brought to her job a particularly effective combination of dedication, hard-headed analysis and genuine compassion. You have become not only a figure of world stature but also a close friend and trusted adviser of many international leaders."

4 day

man — for now JOHN PRESCOTT is a dream for television, loud, cause a loss of jobs. old Labour and larger than life, quite the opposite of the sanitised new Labour frontbenchers with their smooth ways and rehearsed words

Yesterday, during Prime Minister's Questions, the old bruiser could clearly be seen back at his leader's side, prodding and pounding his disdain for John Major. But otherwise this week he has been strangely absent from our screens. Where has he been? And what can explain his unlikely silence?

signifying nothing.

The Tories plainly think he is a suitable target for derision. On Tuesday, in perhaps his last chance to creep to a Tory premier for some while, John Sykes. Tory MP for Scarborough, threw a soft ball to the PM. describing the Labour Cabinet-in-waiting as "a group of failed teachers, a bunch of ex-trade union officials, one television director and a bar steward".

John Major has always professed his distaste for snobbery as perhaps befits a man whose childhood was spent among garden rooms in Brixton, but he grinned smugly at the sneer. Who is meant by the bar steward I cannot imagine."

The TV camera scanned the Labour front bench. but the man in question — Deputy Leader of the Labour Party graduate of Rus-kin College, Oxford, and merchant marine bar stew-ard, late of the good ship Franconia - was missing. As the Labour press conference televised that morning revealed, John Prescott was in Falmouth, of all places, briefly beamed in live on a giant screen like Stuart Hall on It's a Knockout, surrounded by happy campers cheering on the People's

Party. During the six long weeks of campaigning, Prescott will be far from the centre. touring the country in his own personalised charabanc, the Prescott Express, covering 10,000 miles in pursuit of the votes which Tony Blair cannot reach,

Mark Mardell of Newsnight, who caught up with him on Wednesday somewhere in South Wales, reported that he had asked an unnamed "Labour strategist" what Prescott's role would be and he received the reply: "I don't really care as long as he is as far away from London as possible." Mardell then went on to remind us of Prescott's 1992 gaffe, still pertinent today, in which he confessed that a

Mardell asked Prescon whether he minded being kept from the action. The big man beamed. "Do you think anyone can shove me out of the centre? You must be joking!" But his laugh was hollow. Aiready his miein a Labour government is unclear. His hope to be a

new George Brown, with a

department of economic at

fairs to rival Gordon

Brown's Treasury, has been

stamped upon. He sat in the back of hisafter May I. "Then I hope F will have played my part in the key strategy area which I have been two years developing and brought to fruition. Then there will be a Labour government and Tony Blair will be Prime Minister and him and I will

have a chat." Although some like to compare Prescott to Ermin



TV WATCH **NICHOLAS** WAPSHOTT

Bevin, Attlee's dynamic working class Foreign Secretary, he is more like; George Brown, Wilson's er ratic deputy. In Mannie Saatchi's recent Tory horrer TV broadcast which predict ed the headlines under a wayward Labour govern ment, Prescott was painted. as a loose cannon — always threatening resignation and stomping off in protest at slights real and imagined.

It is unlikely we will he seeing much of John Pres cott in the next six weeks, he has been marginalised. Overloaded with ungland orous campaigning in mi places. Prescotts gaffes, if there are any, will not be caught on camera.

But you can't silence Prescott for ever. If Labour win the man in the iron maskwill deserve more than a higoffice and a big ministerial car, he will need a big job to go with them. Just what job may be the first big test of Tony Blair's first day in Downing Street. And whatever it is, there will be no. keeping him off our screens.

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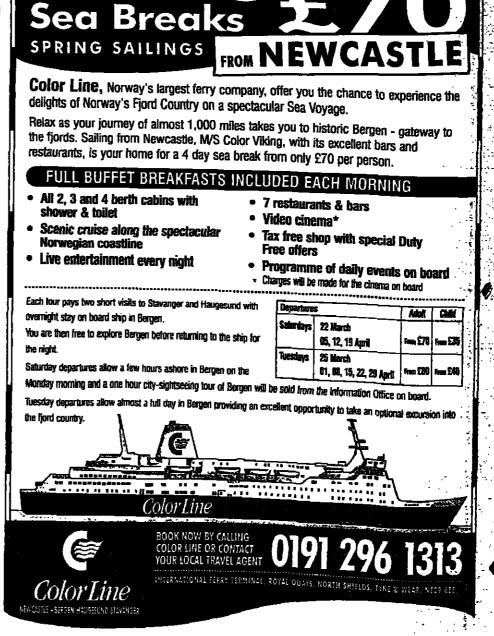
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Committee of MPs could lose the right to vet reports before they are published

Nolan will seek new powers for standards chief

By VALERIE ELLIOTT AND ARTHUR LEATHLEY

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LORD NOLAN, chairman of the Committee on Standrds in Public Life, is to call for Sir Gordon Downey to be allowed to publish all his reports on the conduct of MPs without having them vetted first by a Commons committee He will call for the change

when he reviews the working of the Standards Commissioner and the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee this summer. There is concern among members of the Nolan committee, which originally proposed the creation of a Standards Commissioner, that if Sir Gordon is not given these extra powers the public will not be satisfied that Parliament can police itself. At present, the Standards and Privileges Committee generally considers his contentious reports before publication. The Nolan committee wants

Sir Gordon to be able to publish reports in the same way as parliamentary officers such as the Comptroller and Auditor EXONERATED

The interim report by the Commons Standards and Privileges Committee exonerates 15 of the 25 MPs accused of wrongdoing:

Tory: Michael Portillo, Sir John Wheeler, John Bowis, David Melfor, Robert Atkins, Sir Gerard Vaughan, Sir Graham Bright, Sir Anthony Durant, Sir Malcolm Thornton, David Shaw and Vivian Bendali,

abour: Chris Smith, Doug Hoyle, Gwyneth Dunwoody Liberal Democrat: Alan Beith.

General, Sir John Bourn, and the Ombudsman, Michael Buckley. It is believed that, had Sir Gordon been granted the new power, the prorogation of Parliament need not have delayed publication of his report on the cash-for-questions affair. Parliamentary reports are sometimes published

when the House is not sitting. However, MPs will fiercely resist any proposals that give

Payments from Green were not all declared

By Andrew Pierce

THE lobbyist lan Greer paid thousands of pounds to Sir Michael Grylls, the senior Tory MP at the centre of the cash for questions controversy, on behalf of a group of businessmen who knew nothing about the financial

The payments formed a key part of Sir Gordon Downey's report into the long-running sleaze investigation.

Mr Greer made the pay-ments to Sir Michael for his role as an adviser to the unitary tax campaign, which employed the lobbyist. The payments were not all de-clared by Sir Michael in the register of MPs interests. The "top-up" fees were in to Sir Gordon Downey."

addition to Sir Michael's payment of up to £10,000 a year from the campaign, which he registered. The disputed payments were in 1988-89.

Sir Michael was a leading adviser to the campaign, which was set up by some of the biggest blue chip companies in Britain. The campaign recruited Mr Greer to lobby against the system in some American states, which meant higher tax bills for subsidiaries of British firms.

Sir Michael, who is retiring at the election, said: "I spent a lot of time on the campaign. here was a limit to the amount they could pay. Ian's firm said you are doing extra work and agreed supplementary pay-ments. I have made this clear

committee of MPs.

Labour is committed to strengthening the Committee on Standards in Public Life, if it is elected to power. Senior figures recognise that the party wil be under pressure to tighten the disciplinary pow-ers of Sir Gordon. Derek Foster, the Shadow Public Services Minister, said last night: "If public confidence is to be restored, the Government of the day must ensure that Parliament keeps its House in order." However, the party is reluctant to cede the centuriesold power of MPs to investigate fellow members.

Lord Nolan also believes that Sir Gordon's work could be more completed more quickly if he reported to a subcommittee of MPs than to the full Select Committee on Standards and Privileges.

In the Nolan committee's first report, suggesting the Commissioner, they stated: The Commissioner should have the same ability to make findings and conclusions public as is enjoyed by the Comp-troller and Auditor General and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration."

Peter Shore, a member of the Nolan committee who is retiring from the Commons after 33 years as a Labour MP, said: "People are dissatisfied with the way Parliament has looked after itself. We need to look at it all again in the light of the current situation which is far from satisfactory."

Nigel Jones, a Liberal Democrat member of the Standards and Privileges Committee, has already pressed for an independent system of investigation. However, Quentin Davies, a Tory member of the privileges committee, said that MPs had been "rigorous in observing the rules of natural justice." Removing powers from MPs would be "constitutionally obnoxious [and] damaging to the Commons."



Tim Smith, MP for Beaconsfield, Neil Hamilton, MP for Tatton, Norman Lamont, MP for Kingston upon Thames, Michael Brown, MP for Cleethorpes, Nirj Deva, MP for Brentford and Isleworth, Sir Andrew Bowden, MP for Brighton Kemptown, Gerry Malone, MP for Winchester, and Sir Michael Grylls, MP for Surrey North West

Constituency activists support named Tories

BY DAMIAN WHITWORTH AND CAROL MIDGLEY

IN THE constituencies of the Conservative MPs who are understood to have been examined by Sir Gordon Downey but have yet to be exonerated, party members swung into line behind their candidates yesterday. But the first murmurs of discontent were already being heard in some quarters last night. Neil Hamilton received the

full backing of his local party chairman despite the controversy that has surrounded him. Alan Barnes, constituency chairman for Tatton, in Cheshire, rejected reports of a plot to deselect Mr Hamilton at the AGM today prior to the full publication of the report.
"I remain totally confident that Mr Hamilton will be cleared by the committee and he will continue to receive maximum support from the Tatton Association," he said.

In Harrogate the constituency chairman Paul Meyrick Philip Howard, page 20 refused to comment on how Leading article, page 21 party members felt that the Andrew Bowden's Brighton

candidate, Norman Lamont, who might be criticised in the final report. Mr Lamont was allegedly given money to aid his 1987 election campaign in Kingston upon Thames. One party member, who had voted to choose Mr Lamont as the candidate, said questions were bound to be raised.

Michael Brown may face a rough reception in his Cleethorpes constituency where a swing of just 3.5 per cent would see Labour take the seat. Peter Mills, one of just two Tory district councillors, warned Mr Brown to have a "plausible explanation" ready before he started canvassing the town's voters.

Deirdre Holloway, chairman of the Beaconsfield Conservative Association, said publication of the incomplete committee report changed nothing and members were fully behind Tim Smith. "As far as we are concerned, what is going on to try to smear his able to comment on alleganame is against the interests - tions against the MPs. Two of natural justice."she said.

Kemptown constituency, said: The only adverse reaction there has been in this town about the allegations involving Sir Andrew has been orchestrated by the Labour Party. Our supporters and members are totally behind him."

The agent for the Brentford and Isleworth constituency of Nirj Deva said the local party was unconcerned that Mr Deva had yet to be exonerated by the report as they were convinced of Mr Deva's innocence of receiving irregular payments back in 1987 when he was fighting the seat of Hammersmith. "It is a matter for Hammersmith not Mr Deva," said the agent Jim O'Farrell.

No one at the party head-quarters in the Winchester constituency of the health minister Gerald Malone or the constituency office of retiring Surrey North West MP Sir Michael Grylls was availother MPs who have not been

Sour outburst sums up years of frustration

The 1992-97 Parliament yesterday ended on a characteristically sour and bad-tempered note. John mons revealed all his pent-up dislike of Tony Blair. This epitomised his frustrations throughout the Parliament about what he regards as his unfair treatment by the Opposition, the media and his colleagues. It has been a fractious and unsettled five

resolved so little. Mr Major was given the benefit of the doubt in 1992 and his administration has subsequently achieved more than is commonly recognised. But it never really recovered momentum, or authority in

years, both for the Govern-

ment and for Parliament, in

part because the 1992 election

the Commons, after Black Wednesday in 1992. The Tory party has been divided with a sullen minority never coming to terms with his leadership. The Labour opposition has also been preoccupied with events outside the Commons notably following Mr Blair's election as leader and his attempt to "reinvent" the party. All his main initiatives and Gordon Brown's big eco-

nomic speeches have been outside the Commons. The Opposition has won a few important victories in the House, notably over VAT on domestic fuel, but that depended on support from Tory Eurosceptics. Otherwise, Labour's main efforts have been aimed at voters, not MPs. It was apt that the bitter exchanges at the final Prime Minister's exchanges of the

parliament were about sleaze, that vague charge that has dogged the Tories for the past three years. A recurrent theme of this parliament has been MPs' uncertainty over their role and resentment at criticism of their standards. Many Tory MPs, including quite a few ministers, regret

that the Nolan committee was ever set up. But they fail to realise that the Commonshad, and still has, to demonstrate it is capable of handling alleged believe they are). That is why

RIDDELL ON POLITICS

the stalemate over the "cash for questions" allegations is so

unsatisfactory.
Of course, it was bound to provoke a furious row and it nas, incidentally, disrupted paign and distracted attention from the good unemployment and inflation figures. No wonder Mr Major is so keen to see the back of Parliament.

Nonetheless, as the Opposition has argued, the Government could easily have put off prorogation until after Easter, though, as ministers claimed. there might not have been enough time for the unre-solved allegations to be properly discussed and the affected MPs to put their case. The result is a mess which is unfair to the MPs, further damages the standing of Parliament and underlines the case for a review of self-regulation by the Nolan committee.

The current parliament will, however, be renembered for an important shift in our political culture towards a rules-based system. This was first seen with the publication of Questions of Procedure for Ministers and was followed with the adoption of a new civil service code and the post-Nolan rules for MPs. Just after 2am yesterday this work was rounded off when the Commons approved a resolution on ministerial accountability to Parliament.

This sets out a new yardstick about how ministers should behave, stating that "it is of paramount importance that ministers give accurate and truthful information to Parliament, correcting any inadvertent error at the earliest opportunity. Ministers who knowingly mislead Parlia-ment will be expected to offer their resignation to the Prime Minister". That resolution may still matter when yesterday's bitter ending to an unlamented Parliament is long forgotten.

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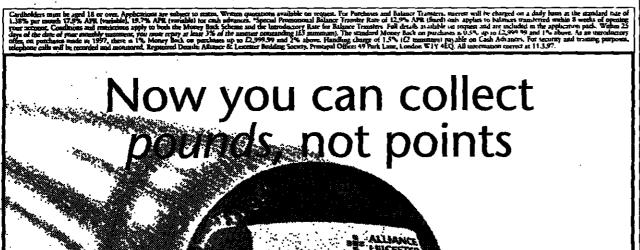
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Midlands police criticised for poor clear-up record

WEST Midlands Police has one of the worst crime-fighting records in the country, according to a Home Office report published yesterday.

Officers in the force, one of the biggest in Britain, were accused by Her Majesty's Inspectors of Constabulary of relying too heavily on confessions by convicted prisoners rather than proper detections. Police also under-recorded or failed to record some crimes. something which may have made the force's crime figures seem better than was really

In January, the Audit Com-mission said that West Midlands Police had performed poorly, despite extra manpower and money. West Midlands was bottom of the league of 43 provincial forces for solving burglaries, violence and for crimes solved per officer. The force has also come

under scrutiny over its role in the Bridgewater case, in which three men were freed last month by the Court of Appeal after serving 18 years for

the most critical issued by the inspectors for a force in recent

An inspection team led by John Stevens, former Chief Constable of Northumbria, found that the force cleared up only 12.5 per cent of crime by detection. The clear-up rate for domestic burglaries was even lower at 8 per cent.

Of all the crime cleared up. 45 per cent was accounted for by confessions made by prisoners during visits, something that the report strongly criticised. The report found that the percentage of crime cleared up by West Midlands Police using prison visits was twice the average for provin-

Visits give the prisoners a chance to admit crimes which can be used to help their case before parole boards. They are normally not prosecuted for the offences they admit. In recent years, forces have been told to tighten up the procedure after allegations of corruption.

In the report the inspection team raised questions about whether the prison visits by



Stevens: led inspection team in West Midlands

West Midlands officers were being properly monitored and

The inspectors urged Ted Crew, the new Chief Constable, to take action to stop his 7,100-strong force relying on

The inspectors also queried the recording of crimes and pointed to "anomalies" after taking a sample of what is included in crime records. They found that the cost of criminal damage in some

ed, which meant they fell below Home Office guidelines for inclusion in official statistics. Other crimes were recorded as minor offences when they were more serious.

The inspectors believe the that problem lay with sloppy controls, rather than a deliberate attempt to misrepresent the force's performance, but the report said that the inaccuracies could affect the overall picture of crime. Yesterday, Mr Crew, who

took over as West Midlands Chief Constable last summer, said in a statement that the report recognised the force was in transition and many of the recommendations were now part of the force's strategy for the next year. They had already been identified by the time of the inspection last autumn and the strategy would aim to improve the force's performance.

Mr Crew said that Her Majesty's Inspectorate had "recognised the painful process the force is undergoing as it focuses its attention on improving its performance" and had also praised some of



George Gamble and one of his birds. The rediscovered Percy will stay in China

Percy takes a slow boat

PERCY the pigeon, which disappeared during a race five years ago, has turned up in China (Paul Wilkinson writes). The bird vanished on a flight from Folkestone to its loft on George Gamble's allotment at Billingham, Teesside. Mr Gamble, 50, assumed it had fallen prey to a hawk or

had had an accident. But this week the North of England Homing Union received a fax from a fancier in Shanghai, where pigeon rac-ing is a big sport. The bird had landed exhausted on a North Sea oil rig and was passed to a Chinese sailor, who took it home. Mr Gamble said: "I won't be asking for him back. Transport is a bit too expensive."

Sex convicts' pin-ups alarm jail inspector

HOME CORRESPONDENT

contra suspen to halt

PRISON staff need national guidelines on dealing with sex offenders who put up pictures of children and naked women in their cells, the Chief Inspector of Prisons says today.

Sir David Ramsbotham says it is not simply a question of banning the pictures. They illustrate behaviour that should be taken into account when assessing the risk that the men pose. Sex offenders who have possible sexual fantasy material in their possession should be confronted and monitored," he says.

He and his inspectors had been concerned to see such pictures on noticeboards and walls in sex offenders' cells at Albany jail on the Isle of Wight. "Staff at Albany were more aware than many about the link betweeen sexual fantasy material and offending, and many of them wanted dearer

He praises the treatment programme for sex offenders and the staff running it at Albany, where 183 of the 425 tences for sex crimes when he visited it last June. Half those who completed treatment had a reduced arousal to deviant material.

Stephen Moore, governor of the jail since December, said the report was generally positive and acknowledged "the good work staff have been doing in creating a purposeful regime and tackling offending behaviour".

In a second report, Sir David condemns Wormwood Scrubs in west London, where a huge rebuilding programme and pressure of numbers meant the "prison has become mainly a warehouse". Most of the 1.027 inmates were locked

up all day. Richard Tilt, Director-General of the Prison Service, said that he shared Sir David's concern. A new management team had been appointed and he was confident the jail would regain its position as the service's flagship.

Eating more carrots has visible benefits

By Robin Young

their baskets with carrots, according to researchers from the Institute of Food Research in Norwich.

Their work suggests that increasing the body's intake of beta carotene by four carrots a day would significantly enhance the immune system's ability to spot cancerous changes quickly. An increased intake of carotenoids may also delay, or possibly prevent, the development of cataracts. Carotenoids are also found in other fresh vegetables and fruit and in

wholemeal cereals. Advertised promotions include:

Asda: beef rump steak £6.49 kg, sirloin steak £7.95 kg, turkey crown £4.38 kg, prawns £1.99 for 400g, grapefruit \$8p for two, strawberries 99p for 420g. Budgens: leg of pork £3.69 kg, pork and leek sausages £1.14 for 454g, Cathedral City mature cheddar £2.89 lb, continental salad 79p for 200g. Sara Lee double choc-

of Jang, Sara Lee double chocolate gateau 99p for 340g.

Co-op (CWS): shoulder of NZ lamb E3.79 kg, chicken drumsticks £1.89 kg, brie £5.95 kg, Spanish asparagus £1.49 for £50g, carrots 39p for 625g.

Dewhurst: leg of pork joints 90p lb, boneless pork shoulder joints 90p lb, belly pork 49p lb, belly pork 49p lb, belly pork 49p lb.

with tomato, spices and herbs £1.09 for 100g.

E3.49 for 1.3kg, breaded chicken nuggets E3.99 for 50, large sausage rolls £1.99 for 50, breaded cod steaks £1.99 for six.

Kwik Save: Grampian chicken £4.49 for 3 to 3.4kg, Mars Bar egg £2.75 for 249g, Smarties egg £1.17 for 100g, Sunblest hot cross buns 45p for four.

Marks & Spencer: NZ lamb leg knuckle £5.29 kg, chicken breast fillets £7.99 for ten, reduced fat hot cross buns 49p for four,

Morrisons: Australian sirloin steak £8.79 kg, pork chops £3.00 kg, turkey steak £4.38 kg, boneless shoulder pork £2.18 kg, fresh octopus £1.15 lb, whole herring or mackerel 990 lb. Safeway: leg of lamb £5.69 kg, skinless chicken breast fillets £4.89

for 567g, smoked Scottish salmon E5.99 for 450g, chicken korma £1.99 for 340g, hot cross buns 59p for six. Sainsbury's: NZ lamb leg £5.29 kg. topside £5.79 kg. stewing beef £2.99 kg. boneless pork shoulder £2.19 kg. back bacon £1.99 for

500g, cucumbers 39p each, iceberg lettuce 49p each. Somerfield: turkey basted breast joint E2.99 for 500g, smoked gam-mon joint E2.99, medium crispy bake pork pie 99p, parsnips 59p for 500g, asparagus tips £1.60 for 125g. Tesco: pork loin steaks £4.99 kg. boneless leg of pork £2.99 kg. jumbo salmon fillets £2.99 lb. lemon sole £2.49 lb, smoked had-dock £2.47 lb, closed cup mush-rooms 99p lb, cauliflower 55p each. Waitrose: chicken legs £1,99 kg, farmhouse duckling £2.30 for 1.9 to 2.3kg, ground pork £1.99 for 500g, small prawns £2.99 for 400g

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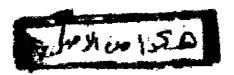
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Nato expansion at uneasy heart of US-Russia talks

FROM RICHARD BEESTON IN HELSINKI

PRESIDENT CLINTON and President Yeltsin met for talks last night in Helsinki, in what both sides predicted would be the toughest Russian-American encounter since the end of the Cold War.

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With relations under, heavy strain because of Moscow's objections to Nato's enlargement plans, the two leaders met at a dinner in the Finnish presidential palace for the ceremonial part of their two-

day meeting.
Ahead of the main working session, which will take place today at the Finnish President's seaside residence, both sides kept up the pre-negotiating rhetoric, with the Russians sounding an optimistic note, while the Americans tried to play down any expectations of a breakthrough.

"President Clinton and I face difficult and serious talks." Mr Yeltsin said soon after arriving in Helsinki. "I think that Bill Clinton and his team are looking for a compromise to all controversial questions, so that we can depart once again as friends.

Madeleine Albright, the US Secretary of State, sounded a different note, saying that the two men may use their meetings simply to "renew a good working relationship". She added: "I do not think that there are specific things that

marks. I think that this is a summit that is kind of reviewing business . . . not one where there is going to be specific things."

Even the arrival of the two leaders was starkly different. Mr Yeltsin, whose presence here was in doubt only a month ago because of pneumonia, looked the picture of health as he stepped confident-ly from his newly refurbished

Clinton: arrival in invalid

jet for his first foreign trip in nearly a year.

Mr Clinton, by contrast,

because of his recent knee injury, was lowered from Air Force One on a Finnair catering truck and then driven to a hotel in the Finnish capital in an ambulance.

The difference in their approach to the summit can be attributed largely to each country's pre-negotiating tactics. Both sides know very well that the plan to extend Nato membership to at least three of the former Soviet Bloc nations will go ahead at the Madrid summit in July.

The Russians, who regard the move as a direct threat to their security and a blow to their national prestige, want to squeeze as many concessions as they can from the American

To offset the Kremlin's displeasure, the Americans have come prepared with a number of initiatives, on Moscow's future role in European sec-urity, arms control and economic assistance for Russia's troubled economy.

In particular, Mr Clinton is expected to offer Mr Yeltsin a "charter" that would formalise Nato's relationship with Russia and grant Moscow a say in Nato policy. The Russians want assurances that no Nato nuclear weapons or forces will



President Yeltsin greets onlookers as he is welcomed in Helsinki for the summit

countries. There is also scope for fresh cuts in strategic

Mr Clinton, who has praised the new Russian Cabinet, which is dominated by young reformers, is also expected to offer Moscow economic incentives in the form of loan guarantees to help to stimulate the Russian economy and a permanent seat at the G7 group of leading

hostile reception from opposiindustrialised countries. tion Communist and national-While this package of inist leaders, who had written

ducements may sweeten the off the summit even before it Nato pill, the Americans are started. Viktor Hyukhin, Comaware that ultimately there is munist head of the Russian little they can do to placate Mr parliamentary security com-Yeltsin, who will never accept mittee, said yesterday that the alliance's expansion plans. there was no point in talking However good the relationto America and that Moscow's ship between the two men, only alternative was to take they must agreed to disagree.

"counter-measures". He said: "Nothing construc-Tomorrow Mr Yeltsin must return back to Moscow to face tive will come of this summit what will almost certainly be a precisely because Nato's expansion is a foregone conclusion and Russia is powerless

Drastic cuts in nuclear arms back on agenda

FROM MICHAEL BINYON IN HELSINKI

day urge President Yeltsin to make huge new cuts in Rusping thousands of warheads so that America and Russia eventually have only about 2.000 nuclear weapons each.

Arms control, a central feature of East-West summits during the Cold War, is back on the agenda in Helsinki. President Clinton said before arriving here that he would discuss guidelines for a Start (strategic arms reduction treaty) 3 agreement with Moscow to continue the reductions agreed in earlier Start accords. They envisage cutting nuclear stockpiles by two thirds from the total at the Cold War's

height.

America's proposals are based on a Nuclear Posture Review by the Pentagon three years ago, which concluded that nuclear weapons played a smaller part in American security than at any time in the nuclear age and that the country should concentrate on anti-missile defences to counter nuclear proliferation by rogue states, it recognised that another stage of negotiated arms control with Moscow would need to follow Start 2, and recommended reductions in non-strategic forces not

covered by the treaty. At present Russia still has between 10,000 and 15,000 nuclear weapons, almost ten times as many as America. The Pentagon review said this was more than Russia needed

PRESIDENT Clinton will to- for defence and more than it could keep under control dur-

ing political turbulence. So far, only the main provisions of the first Start agreement have been largely enacted. Three former Soviet republics - Belarus, Kazakhstan and Ukraine - are now nuclear-free. America has spent almost \$2 billion in helping Russia to scrap nuclear warheads, and joint programmes are going ahead to prevent the theft of weapons and fissile material in Russia.

Start 2, which makes further deep cuts in nuclear arsenals to about 3,000-3,500 on each side, has not come into force, however, having run into strong opposition in the Russian parliament, which believes it strongly disadvantages Russia and is refusing to ratify it.

Until Start 2 is ratified. prospects for a follow-on treaty look dim. The Americans envisage Continuous Arms Reduction Talks (Cart) which would include strategic and non-strategic nuclear weapons. Washington believes that China, Britain and France should be included in a second phase of Cart.

But experts, including Ashworth Carter, a former Assistant Defence Secretary in the Clinton Administration, say scrapping all nuclear weapons is neither practical nor desirable until it is clear that other countries will do so, too. Few expect much progress here on beginning a new arms treaty.

The bouncy East meets wheelchair-bound West

By Michael Binyon

THE American President arrived in Helsinki yesterday in a Finnair catering capsule. Never has a summit begun so humiliatingly, never has protocol been so confused.

As Air Force One taxied to a halt in the crisp winter sun, a catering hoist edged forward. to the plane's forward service entrance. President Ahtisaari fled and appeared perplexed: had the American President ordered a fresh round of duty-

Suddenly, it was all dear. The red carpet was hastily relaid to line up with the Finnair truck. Officials readied themselves for the salute. Slowly the hoist went up, and slowly it came down again. No one emerged. It was, it appeared, a dummy run by the Secret Service to see that the contraption was working. Up and down it went again. The back flap opened, and a

out suspiciously. Then Mr Clinton appeared. Smiling sheepishly as his wheelchair was pushed into view, he shook hands with the President and was manoeuvred to

his limousine. There were no speeches, no anthems, no inspections of the guard. There was not even a jaunty touch of Roosevelt. Mr Clinton had been doing some exercises with his physiother-apist on the flight over, but he was clearly not looking for-ward to the world's cartoonists having a field day.

President Yeltsin arrived a couple of hours later, and almost bounded down the steps, a picture of breezy health. Clearly relishing the contrast, he stood, smiling and bronzed (there must be sun-lamps in the Kremlin clinic) beside his wife, Naina, while the Russian national anthem echoed across the tarmac. He did not attempt to

they should be.

He made an elaborate speech, thanking Mr Ahtisaari, thanking Finland, extolling good-neighbourly relations, damping down expectations of summit agreement and rounding off with hopes for world peace. It was almost as long as a Gorbachev statement, and certainly his longest public

Both men then set off to check in. Mr Clinton has been moved out of the American Ambassador's residence as it has no lift, and is having to bunk down in the Intercontinental Hotel along with the entire travelling White

Mr Ahtisaari, an earthy. roly-poly man who appeals as much to Mr Yeltsin's bluffness as he does to Mr Clinton's Southern Good Old Boy charm, has lent his guests his







We test our brakes in the Arctic. Our vehicles pull

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2 tons for 30,000 miles up steep hills. They also

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reverse up 1 in 2 inclines over and over. It gets

-40°C AND 75°C.

worse. Land Rovers are tested for hours in 20 inches

THE REST OF THE

of water. We even drive off an 18 inch platform and

CAR DOES TO

over railway sleepers to test the air bags. After all

ESCAPE SO LEGITLY

this, our cars deserve something special. A badge.

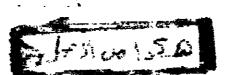
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DIAL 100 AND ASK THE OPERATOR FOR FREEPHONE LAND ROVER.



INSIDE SECTION TODAY



BUSINESS

Anatole Kaletsky says Tory tactics are not working **PAGE 29**



EDUCATION

David Blunkett outlines Labour's proposals **PAGE 38**



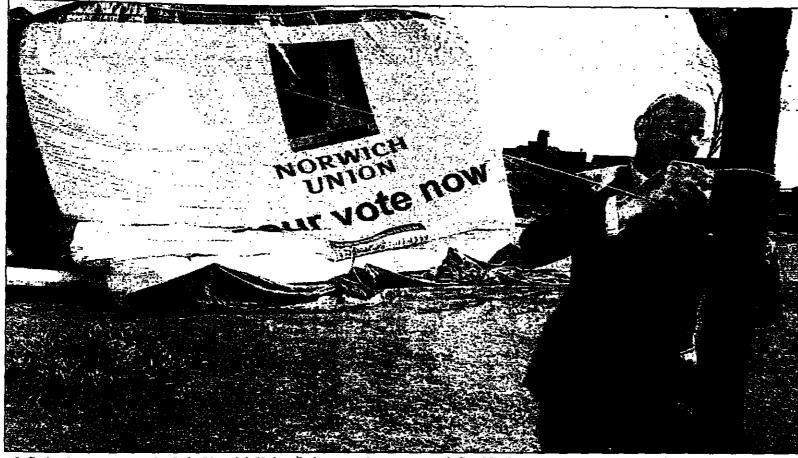
SPORT

Hoddle makes few waves in naming squad for Mexico **PAGES 41-48**

TELEVISION AND RADIO PAGES

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FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997



Inflation beater: George Paul, the Norwich Union chairman, tethers an errant inflatable sign as the insurer announced its flotation yesterday

Norwich members to get £3bn flotation windfall

By Gavin Lumsden

ALMOST three million members of Norwich Union will share a £3 billion windfall as a result of the insurer's £5 billion stock market flotation, it

was announced yesterday. Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 29 million members. The average payout will be worth about £800. The shares will be split between the society's 1.8 million with-profit pensions and savings policyholders as well as its 1.1 million non-profit holders of products such as annuities and term-

assurance mortgages. Dresdner Kleinwart Benson, which is advising Norwich Union, estimates the shares will be worth between 220p and 265p. The offer excludes NU's 4.1 million non-life insurance customers worldwide.

NU is also seeking to raise £1.75 billion in a rights issue to fund a restructuring. Of this, £1.5 billion will go to the withprofits fund, which will become part of a new company called

CITY ADVISERS IN LINE FOR £145M BONANZA

THE cost of Norwich Union's flotation and rights issue will be £145 million, including a £25 million tax charge, equivalent to £26 for each qualifying member (Gavin Lumsden writes). Dresdner Kleinwort Benson, which is co-

ordinating the bookbuilding behind the rights issue, will get £40 million. The rest will be shared between other advisers, such as actuary Tillinghast-Towers Perrin, and the cost of communicating with its members worldwide. Norwich Union is making 120 separate to a hank.

circular to the 29 million members who qualify for shares, reserving 18,000 copies of the full document for institutional investor Advisers have been huge beneficiaries of the rush to the stock market by building societies and other mutuals. The Halifax paid £413 million in connection with the acquisition of the Leeds Building Society and the conversion

mailings. Unlike the converting building

societies, it has been able to send a mini-

Norwich Union Life and Pensions. The money will replace the general non-life business which is being set up as a separate subsidiary. Norwich Union Insurance. Today, 2.2 million UK members should receive a circular detailing their individual

meeting is to be held at London Arena on April 18. A 75 per cent vote in favour for the demutualisation is required for to proceed. This is

share allocation as well as a

voting form. An extraordinary

likely as even non-profit holders will receive a fixed allocation of 150 shares. With-profit policyholders will get a fixed allocation of 300 shares, worth up to £800. In addition, 57 per cent of them will receive a variable allocation dependent on the value of their policy. This could double the amount of shares given to a third of with-profit holders. Some 126,000 with-profit holders stand to get more than 1,200

shares. The 10,000 staff will

also get 150 shares. According

to a recent Inland Revenue ruling, NU members will have 42 days in which to transfer an unlimited number of shares into the tax-free shelter of a Pep. NU said people already drawing on policies, such as annuities, would also get 150

Qualifying members will also be able to buy further shares in the rights issue at a discount to the price set for the City. On the basis of privatisations, this could be about 5 per cent to 10 per cent. Details will

be sent in a mini-prospectus in May. NU will pay its first ed as a strong hint that the US dividend in June 1998. It said central bank will raise interest 1996 would have been worth £205 million.

Proposing the demutualisation, Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, said it would bring out the true value of NU's subsidiaries, increase its free asset ratio from 10.7 per cent to 15.4 per cent and improve its access to external capital. Significantly, he refused to comment on whether the company had received offers to merge since it announced the plan to

demutualise last October. Richard Harvey, group fi-nance director, said the restructuring would enable the with-profits fund to invest an additional £1.2 billion in equities. NU had already begun a series of derivatives trades to do this. Restating corporate accounts, he said NU had achieved £483 million of pre-

tax profits last year. Pennington, page 27

Shares tumble as Greenspan overshadows inflation fall

By Janet Bush and Richard Thomson

LONDON shares plunged to uncertainties of an election their biggest daily loss since December, spooked once again by a warning of higher American interest rates from Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the US Federal Reserve.

The FT-SE 100 index closed 74.1 points lower at 4,258.1. points down from its all-time closing high on March 11, with all but 20 points of that slump occurring this week after John Major confirmed that the election will be on May 1.

The selling came despite news that British retail price inflation fell in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent, from 2.8 per cent in January, while underlying inflation fell from 3.1 per

cent to 2.9 per cent. In December the FT-SE 100 was sent 88 points lower in a day after Mr Greenspan warned stock market investors against "irrational exuberance". This time he told the Joint Economic Committee of Congress that the American economy retained "a great deal of vigour" and that the job market remained strong.

In remarks widely interpreted as a strong hint that the US for the Fed to act preemptively to prevent inflation rising out of control.

On Wall Street, the Dow Jones industrial average immediately fell 50 points before recouping some of its losses to stand around 35 points lower at midday. The mood in London was, if anything, somewhat darker than on Wall Street.

The market is not only contending with the inevitable **BUSINESS TODAY**

Mortgage lending falls in February

campaign, but also a growing

perception that British interest rates will rise once the poll is

Despite yesterday's fall in inflation, the City was still

worried by Wednesday's news of another sharp fall in unem-

ployment, higher average earnings growth and a

healthy bounce in retail sales.

These hints of economic

THE patchy nature of the housing market recovery was underlined yesterday by the latest mortgage lending fig-ures from banks and building societies, showing a slight fall in February. But outside the housing market demand for credit remained strong.

Meanwhile, manufacturers said exports were now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The Confederation of British Industry said an improvement in domestic orders had compensated for the decline in exports. Page 26

strength were compounded yesterday by news of a sharp jump in broad money supply. The fall in headline inflation

was largely because of food prices, although the index was also depressed by household goods and personal goods prices. Housing and motoring costs, plus clothing prices, pushed inflation higher.

Pennington, page 27 trade, should the p Markets, page 28 to power. Page 30

Tokyo ciose Yen 123.03

ondon close \$351.25 (\$348,95

Guinness warns Guinness gave warning that the soaring pound could its profits over the next two years. The company reported an II per cent rise in 1996 pretax profits to £975 million. Page 27

Tax fear

John Laing, one of Britain's largest construction companies, said Labour's proposed windfall tax could stiffe recovery in the building trade, should the party come

'mis-selling' solution

By MARTIN WALLER

LEGAL & GENERAL, one of the country's biggest insurers, claims it has come up with a way of helping the half a million people who were wrongly tempted out of occupational schemes and into personal pension plans.

The L&C was heavily implicated in the long-running, and still largely unresolved, pension mis-selling scandal. L&G has so far offered redress to only about 10 per cent of the 20,000 or more mis-selling cases it has identified. David Prosser, chief executive, says the slow rate of progress requires the industry to take the initiative. He proposes issuing a legally binding guarantee to restore any loss of benefits

to pension plan holders wrongly advised by L&G representatives to opt out of their company scheme. "What matters to the individual is that they know, as a matter of certainty, that, when they retire, all the pension benefits to which they would have been

entitled will be paid." said Mr Prosser. L&G will earmark an unspecified proportion of the group's £20 billion life fund to back the guarantees. This sum will be subject to the usual checks by the Department of Trade and Industry on insurers. The scheme needs the agreement of the Personal Investment Authority, the consumer finance regulator. Yesterday it was sceptical.

Legal & General offers ABN Amro in talks to buy Capel-Cure Myers

By CAROLINE MERRELL

ABN Amro Hoare Govett. the broking arm of the Dutch hank, has confirmed that it is in discussions over the purchase of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management the leading private client portfolio manager.

John Henderson, chief executive of Capel-Cure Myers Capital Management, said the firm had made the announcement in a bid to end market speculation about the future of the company. "There have been many rumours about a change of owner-

Capel-Cure Myers manages about Pennington, page 27 E4 billion on behalf of private clients and pension funds. The company is

thought to have made £7 million in 1996. Capel-Cure Myers is currently 70 per cent owned by CIGL, a company formed from the collapse of a Canadi-an property and financial services group. At the end of last year, CIGL indicated that it wanted to sell its stake. Mr Henderson said: "We had preliminary discussions with a number of different parties." The company currently employs 450 staff. He added that a purchase by ABN Amro would

represent the best fit for the company. ABN Amro has been interested in increasing its asset management arm in this country for a long time. It was this ambition that led it to offer a job to Nicola Horlick, the former senior Morgan Grenfell fund manager.



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Staff on National Express gravy train bus fleet helped the division to lift



Colin Child, left, and Phil White

By Fraser Nelson

NATIONAL EXPRESS, the transport group, is to give away about £30 million in shares as a loyalty bonus to the staff of its West Midlands bus

More than 4,000 workers of West Midland Travel, which became part of National Express two years ago, will receive an average payout worth £7,800 as a reward for holding on to their shares for two years.

The staff, who were the owners of West Midlands Travel before it was taken over in a £260 million deal, will receive the windfall after the company's annual meeting on May I. Six million shares are being issued, which were set aside as part of the original

The company, which last month became Britain's biggest train operator after winning the franchise for ScotRail, made an operating profit of £2.1 million from Garwick Express and Midland Main Line in their first eight months. The two lines were expected only to break even. Phil White, chief executive, said the company, which formally takes over ScotRail next month, was confident that it could resolve the dispute that has left the country's rail system paralysed by oneday strikes.

National Express's investment in its

profits by 60 per cent, to £39.4 million. After a restructuring charge of £3.83 million, group pre-tax profits were 45 per cent ahead at £60.1 million. Earnings were 32.8p (27.9p) and a final dividend of 8.1p, due on May 2, lifts the total to 11.5p (10p).

Colin Child, the finance director.

said that after cutting borrowings from £37.8 million to £5.1 million, the company was on the prowl for acquisitions. It is unlikely to buy any UK bus companies, he said, but would be interested in bidding for a part of London's Underground system.

Home loans point to patchy recovery

BY ROBERT MILLER AND JANET BUSH

THE patchy nature of the while monthly gross advances housing market recovery was underlined yesterday by the latest mortgage lending fig-ures from banks and building

But, outside the housing sector, demand for credit in the economy appeared to remain strong and the M4 broad measure of money supply leapt, underscoring a growing view in the City that interest rates will have to be raised after the election.

The Building Societies Association (BSA) said that net and gross mortgage lending fell slightly in February, although approvals rose to £2.9 billion from £2.5 billion in January. Members of the association recorded a £335 million monthly fall in net advances from El billion in January

Provisions take toll of Renault

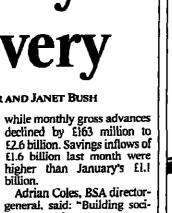
automaker, suffered a net loss of Fr5.25 billion in 1996, the company said.

Losses were struck after costs and provisions of Fr3.91 billion, particularly for closing the group's plant near Brussels, and for the social plan the company must implement in France in connection with

its restructuring plans. As a result of the provisions, the group incurred an operating loss of Fr5.99 billion, compared with a profit of Fri.26 billion in 1995. Excluding restructuring charges, the operating loss would be Frl.77 billion.

marie claire

Automotive activities lost Fr2.45 billion, excluding provisions. The commercial vehicle arm had an operating loss of Fr705 million.



Adrian Coles, BSA director-general, said: "Building soci-ety net and gross mortgage lending fell slightly in February on both a seasonally adjusted and unadjusted basis. On a seasonally adjusted basis net advances are 13 per

cent higher than last year." Mr Coles, who said the latest figures show a moderate and patchy recovery is contin-uing, added: "This slight downturn in lending should not be taken as an indication that the recovery in the housing market is faltering. We are seeing some areas recovering very strongly indeed while others are still waiting to see the full benefits of the upturn."

The British Bankers' Association said that mortgage lending by the major UK banks, to be joined shortly by the Alliance & Leicester and later in the summer by the Halifax, Woolwich and Northern Rock, rose by £743 million compared with £806 million in January.

The BBA, which said that the monthly home loan figures remained comfortably above the recent average, added that consumer credit rose strongly by £626 million, of which credit cards accounted for £231 million. The figure that attracted

most concern in the City was a 1.4 per cent jump in M4 money supply in February. much bigger than economists had expected. This took its annual growth to 11.3 per cent from 10 per cent in the year to January, so taking M4 even further above the upper limit of the Government's 3 to 9 per

cent monitoring range.
Although M4 has been distorted by the introduction of the gilt repo market, economists still said that its rapid growth was a worry.



Tom Farmer, the chairman, said yesterday that the record had been achieved despite flat market conditions

Sterling 'has delivered untimely exports blow'

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

BRITAIN'S manufacturing exports are now at their lowest level since 1993 because of the strength of sterling. The latest evidence of the UK's weakening export performance will be a blow to the Government ahead of the general election in the midst of a run of good figures on inflation and unemployment

in its latest monthly trends survey, the Confederation of British Industry today says that sterling's continued strength has led to export demand for UK manufactured goods reaching its lowest level since November 1993.

The survey of more than 1,000 firms in 50 industries, accounting for half the UK's manufacturing exports, shows that 35 per cent of companies consider their export books

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cent say their export books are above normal.

This net balance of 18 per cent of companies citing below normal export levels marks a rapidly accelerating trend — down from a net balance of 12 per cent recording below normal exports in February, and 8 per cent in January. Sudhir Junankar, CBI asso-

ciate director of economic analysis, says the findings "show that the strength of sterling is beginning to take its toll on export orders".

Manufacturers hope that falling export orders can be offset by domestic sales, and the CBI's survey gives some support to that, showing that home demand is stronger than export performance. Total orders are now broadly stable after an improvement in debelow normal. Only 17 per mand. With a fifth of firms

saying that total orders are above normal and 21 per cent suggesting they are below usual levels, the net negative balance of 1 per cent compares with a figure of minus 6 per cent for February and is the closest that overall order books have been to normal levels since September 1995.

Suggesting that this im-provement in domestic demand has "more than compensated" for the fall in exports, the CBI says that with stocks at more than adequate levels, manufacturers have become more confident about raising output.

However, the survey sounds a warning note on inflation. A net 9 per cent of companies expect domestic prices to rise over the next four months. compared with only 4 per cent last month

Kwik-Fit wheels in a record

By Fraser Nelson

REFURBISHMENT and construction of new sites helped Kwik-Fit, the car parts repair company, to return record profits last year. Its number of worldwide sites broke through 1,000.

The company opened 31 green field sites and added 83 centres to its national network over the year, which helped pre-tax profits grow 19 per cent to £43.3 million on sales up 17 per cent at £427 million.

Tom Farmer, chairman, said that the results had been achieved in spite of flat market conditions. The group continued to lift its market share in The Netherlands. The division had attracted a million motorists.

Earnings grew to 17.2p (14.7p) per share. The dividend rises to 5.6p (5p), with a final 3.5p due May 13.

Up to speed, page 33

Jury in the Gokal trial due to retire

THE jury in the trial of Abbas Gokal, the former head of the Gulf Group, is today expected to retire to consider its verdict. Mr Justice Buxton is due to

complete his summing up this morning. The trial opened at the Old Bailey in September last year.

Mr Gokal, 61, denies one count of false accounting and a second of conspiracy to defraud. It is alleged that, between 1985 and 1991, he conspired with various officials of the Bank of Credit and Commerce International (BCCI) to falsify loan documents, board minutes, and other documents, with a view to enabling BCC1 to secretly fund the Gulf Group.

The court heard that the Gulf Group was indebted to BCCI to the tune of more than

\$1.2 billion. Mr Gokal is further alleged to have conspired with BCCI officials to create a financial structure designed to deceive Price Waterhouse, BCCI's auditor. The structure was allegedly controlled by, but not traceable to, the Gulf Group, and was designed to channel funds to Gulf from BCCI.

The Gulf Group was based in Geneva and had extensive interests in shipping and trading. The jury was told that Mr Gokal had fled to Pakistan after the company collapsed in 1992, but was arrested in Frankfurt two years later, when the aircraft on which he was travelling to New York put down to refuel. He was later extradited to the UK.

Power programme 'should be delayed'

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

THE programme to enable households to shop around for their electricity supply has slipped so far behind schedule that a delay should be consid-

ered. MPs said yesterday.
The all-party Trade and Industry Select Committee also criticised the management of the ambititous project.

Referring to the industry's efforts to set in place the mechanics that will enable the country's 25 million electricity consumers to switch electricity supplier by April 1998, the committee said: "Given they will have had

eight years notice since vesting, this progress is substan-tially less than we would have expected to see some 12 months before implementation." It concluded: "The possi-bility of a short delay should not be excluded."

The committee also calls for an inquiry into the cost benefits of opening the market to competition. MPs are concerned that the costs of imple menting competition should not outweigh or balance the

Pennington, page 27

TOURIST RATES

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Lloyd's hearing opens at High Court

THE first in a series of hearings to deal with alleged fraud at Lloyd's of London opens at the High Court in London today, A number of names are refusing to pay funds owed under the reconstruction and renewal (R&R) plan, on the grounds that they were fraudulently induced to enter the market. They say their membership of Lloyd's should be rescinded in these circumstances, removing the obligation to pay. Lloyd's says the names have entered into third party contracts with policyholders and are hence bound to membership. If so, the court will address whether the names are obliged to pay their premiums to Equitas, the new reinsurance company, before pursuing any fraud claims.

Meanwhile, Sally Noel, the Lloyd's campaigner, has postponed plans to lead a march on Downing Street, demanding a government enquiry into Lloyd's. Mrs Noel is concerned that the march will attract "an unwanted, rebellious and fanatical element".

Jardine Matheson falls

JARDINE MATHESON, the Hong Kong trading conglomerate that owns a 50 per cent stake in Jardine Fleming. suffered a 29 per cent fall in net profits to US\$300.2 million after a \$56 million charge for non-recurring items. These included a \$26 million charge for regulatory breaches at Jardine Fleming Investment Management in London and Hong Kong. Dairy Farm International, the food retailing. arm of the trading group, also incurred reorganisation costs at Kwik Save in the UK and Franklins in Australia.

Utilities under fire again

THE privatised utilities came in for a fresh barrage of criticism yesterday over excessive profits and "fat cat" pay from an all-party group of MPs. The Public Accounts Committee, which monitors public spending, demanded tougher action from the utility regulators to ensure that profits are curbed and that companies think twice before awarding top executives large pay packages. The attack follows criticism earlier this week in a Trade and Industry-Select Committee report on energy regulation.

Securicor warning

SECURICOR, the security group dominated by its Cellnet investment, has given warning that stiff competition has accelerated the rate at which customers are "churning" mobilephones. Its shares fell 21p to 2942p. Orange also suffered. falling 12p to 205p and Vodafone dropped 82p to 274p. Securicor has taken an £18 million charge to change its accounting policies, assuming that customers would return phones after two years, not three. Its communications division is now expected to return a loss of £9 million in the first half.

Hanson expands in US

HANSON, which became a building materials company after its demerger, has expanded its construction business in America with the acquisition of Concrete Pipes and Products through its Cornerstone Construction & Materials unit for £78 million. Chris Collins, deputy chairman, said: "This is our new strategy in action." After the integration of Concrete Pipes. Cornerstone will be one of the largest concrete pipe producers in the US.

Merger for US banks

FIRST BANK SYSTEM is to acquire US Bancorp for \$8.5. billion in an all-shares deal that will form America's 14thlargest bank. The deal between First Bank, based in Minneapolis, and US Bancorp, a regional bank based in Portland, Oregon, will result in the loss of about 4,000 jobs. the banks said. First Bank said that it would take pre-tax charges of \$625 million for costs related to the merger, which was expected to close by the end of June.

Servisair soars 20%

SERVISAIR, the airport services company, achieved a 20 per cent rise in pre-tax profits to £7.1 million last year, reflecting continued growth in passenger air traffic and cargo volumes. Turnover increased 20 per cent to £153.9 million. Earnings were 19 per cent higher at 12.7p a share. A final dividend of 3.45p a share lifts the total 19 per cent to 5.1p. Tony McCann, the chairman, said he expected an "acceleration of outsourcing opportunities from airlines".

Boots Contract purchase

BOOTS Contract Manufacturing, part of The Boots Company, has paid £15.2 million to acquire a French toiletries manufacturer. Royal is the leading supplier of own-brand toiletries in France. It also has a growing business in Spain and Portugal. Its turnover last year was about £27 million. It employs more than 200 people in France and Spain. Boots already operates BCM Cosmetique in France. The new acquisition will create a combined French turnover of almost £40 million.

The Standard Life Assurance Company Annual General Meeting

The 171st Annual General Meeting of the Company will be held in Standard Life House, 30 Lothian Road, Edinburgh on Tuesday 22 April 1997 at

A member entitled to attend and vote is entitled to appoint a proxy to attend and vote. A proxy need not be a member,

By order of the Board of Directors Alan R Forbes Secretary

Edinburgh, 20 March 1997

Policyholders may obtain a copy of the Annual Report and Accounts, including the agenda, by writing to the Customer Service Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 SRG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.



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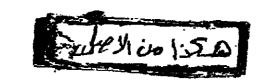
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Guini

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☐ Insurers must speed up mis-selling restitution ☐ Power deregulation should be delayed ☐ Election promises cost money

THERE is a body of opinion that believes most of our big insurance companies should be put out of business by government or regulatory fiat. Legal & General, the mighty Prudential, Pearl Assurance, they should all be shut down, because their sins in the leta 1000c make them po in the late 1980s make them no better than Barlow Clowes, the

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Titan pyramid selling schemes or those wretched ostrich farms. This is not all hyperbole; the mis-selling of personal pensions that started in 1988 was both illegal and immoral — and it was being carried out by some of the finest names in financial

But in the real world you do not shut down the likes of the Pru although you do go hunting with your elephant gun for the gnats of the industry, the small independent financial advisers that did much the same thing. Now one of the big names has

come up with its own solution. Legal & General is proposing a set-aside of a billion pounds or more by the industry to guarantee meeting its future obliga-tions. These are to put those people it led astray back where they would have been if they had stayed with their occupational pensions all along.

At present the insurers are

forced to adopt a case-by-case approach. They look at each individual example, go to the

L&G's dubious moral high ground relevant occupational pension that the investor has opted out of, justified, even if unsophisticated investors might draw some crumbs of comfort from yes-terday's news. The money will indeed be there on retirement and then write a cheque to top up the existing pension to where it should have been. This is hor-

ribly slow, for reasons that are in

dispute. Of 558,000 cases of

potential mis-selling identifed, lewer than 11,000 have been offered redress.

argues Legal & General, then we

need not hurry because those in

any doubt know they will get their money in the end, and can

sleep at night without worrying whether death or retirement will

intervene before the necessary

There are two cynical re-

sponses to this plan, which is likely to be accepted with alacrity by other insurers if it gains regulatory blessing. One is that L&G is trying to claim the moral high ground while merchy agrees.

high ground while merely agree-

ing to meet its existing obliga-

tions. The other is that the group is trying to identify a tangible

limit on the monetary damage it faces from mis-selling, to the benefit of its credit rating, share

Such cynicism is probably

sums can be done.

If that reserve fund is in place,

along.
The Personal Investment Authority, which in November tried to speed up the process of extrac-ting the necessary data from occupational schemes, has set an unofficial target of a 90 per cent clear-up rate for mis-selling by the end of this year. This is a hard one to hit, but the insurers should still try, and not be allowed to use their own pensions guarantees to drag their feet.

except that it would have been all

When the bugs come out to play

☐ IN A performance as mealymouthed as it is weak-kneed, the Trade and Industry Select Committee looking at the deregulation of electricity in a year and ten days says it is, yes, just possible that a slight delay will be needed.

In this, MPs are falling in line with both common sense and the **PENNINGTON**



majority of the people who will actually have to create a free market in power, allowing you and I to shop around with a range of companies keen to sell it to us. This is an extension of the similar choice already opening up in the gas industry — but with one enormous difference. Those independents now offer-

ing cheap gas are in a better position to cut your quarterly bills than their counterparts in electricity a year hence because the cost of distribution down the pipelines, which will continue to be born by BG, successor to British Gas, is fixed at about 40 per cent of that bill. This means the independents have 60 per cent to play for. Of your electricity bill, 90 per cent is distribution

and generation cost, or thereabouts, and only 10 per cent
supply, which should therefore
be inherently less profitable.

This begs the question whether
we need a competitive market at
all. But the real problem is the
computers needed to track the

supply of power to 20 million supply of power accepted by the select committee. All 14 electricity distributors, including the two Scots, must have these running by the turn of the year to allow three months of testing.

Any competent computer tech-nician would say that such a system needed at least a year to iron out the bugs, but this is impossible because the specifications are not yet agreed with the regulator. The danger is that on regulator. The tranger is that on All Fools' Day next year the bugs come out to play. Months later, with a large number of electricity bills having gone out wrong, it is impossible to work out electronically who took what power from whom, and who has paid.

The only people forcing through this timetable are the politicians at the Department of

be here come June. This at least allows their successors the opportunity of a graceful extension of that April deadline.

Voting the Norwich way

TWO hundred years ago, when the Norwich Union was founded, general elections were much more fun for those privi-leged few who were entitled to vote. Election promises meant something, namely cash. Can-didates knew votes were valuable and did the decent thing. Unless the opinion polls are radically wrong, it would scarcely be worthwhile for the parties to pay much for votes on May 1, even if it were legal. Up in Norwich, however, they

still know that votes are valuable. When members exercise theirs in four weeks' time, the board will have no compunction about buying them. Quite right too. Under the original proposals, it seemed that only the 1.8 million holders of with-profits Trade and Industry. According life or pensions policies had a full to the opinion polls, they will not interest in the fund and would get the free shares that represented their stake in it. But conversion from mutual to ple requires a three-quarters majority, and holders of non-profit

policies have voting rights too. So 1.1 million of them are to be offered 150 shares each, worth an estimated £375, compared with a minimum of £750 for with-profit policyholders. What better illustration of the value of democracy and the need to protect your franchise, whether in the affairs of state, the European Union or the East Anglian version.

Unlike customers of building societies, with-profits policy-holders could also win a continuing benefit from conversion. Some £1.5 billion new money will be used to buy non-life busi-nesses from the life fund, making it more flexible, with a better chance to perform competitively.

Greenspan III

□ ALAN Greenspan's first gno-mic warnings bludgeoned Wall Street. The next version, dubbed Greenspan II: the Sequel, left blase traders urging the Fed Chairman to put up or shut up. Put up interest rates that is. Yesterday's hint that he might do just that on Tuesday only shocked traders for a few hours. Greenspan's code words were: "The performance of the economy remains quite favourable."

Guinness puts cost of strong pound at £100m

price, and so on.

GUINNESS gave warning yesterday that the soaring pound could knock about £100 million off its profits over the next two years.

The drinks company said that if the pound remained at current levels, profits this year would be depressed by £60 million, and by a further £40 million next year.

Tony Greener, chairman. said most of the currency hit related to profits translation and that underlying growth should accelerate this year. Western markets were imroving for the first time the recession, he added.

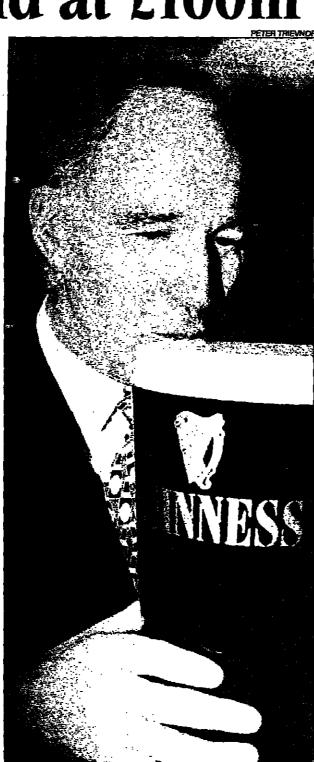
Guinness also hinted that it would shortly launch another buy-back, with market predictions suggesting that it will repurchase around £100 million of shares. The company has returned £645 million to shareholders through buybacks in the past year. Guinness shares rose 152p to

a two-year high of 501 2p. The company recorded an 11 per cent rise in full year profits, excluding tax, to £975 million - slightly ahead of forecasts: Overall turnover rose 3 per cent to £4.73 billion, while the total dividend was up 8 per cent to 16.1p.

Operating profits in the spirits division were flat, at £678 million, although volumes rose I per cent. Sales of Johnnie Walker Red Label rose 4 per cent, while sales of single malts jumped 20 per cent. But overall sales of whisky fell I per cent. Guinness has raised spirits prices by an average of 1.5 per

cent, it plans to raise prices 3.8 per cent next month in the UK. Guinness doubled expenditure on new brands to £17 million. Marketing expenditure rose 10 per cent, to £332 million, and the company said it would maintain double digit

growth in marketing spend this year. indard Life Guinness Brewing Worldwide increased profits 6 per cent, to £283 million. Sales of re Company Guinness stout rose 5 per cent, nuual with total beer volumes rising 4 per cent. There was also a strong performance from Kilal Meeting kenny, which is now availble in 5,000 outlets in the UK. Marketing investment rose 8 per cent to £205 million, while the Irish pub concept, which is supported by Cuinness, grew



Tony Greener toasts a two-year high in the share price

by a third, with a total of 1.250 outlets in 37 countries. Cruzcampo, the Spanish

subsidiary, faced another difficult year, with overall volumes falling 3 per cent. But restructuring had helped productivity to rise 14 per cent and profits stayed at £22 million. Proceeds to be reinvested after deal with US rival

The contribution from Möet Hennessy Loius Vuitton (LVMH), in which Guinness holds a 34 per cent stake, rose 2 per cent to EH3 million. A final dividend of 11.55p is payable on May 20.

Tempus, page 28

Whitbread sells Pizza Piazza chain for £11.25m

Whitbread yesterday sold the to a management buy-in team for Ell_25 million.

Passion for Food, the company formed to complete the purchase, beat off tough competition for the chain from Queensborough Holdings, which recently recruited Michael Guthrie, the founder of BrightReasons, to launch a restaurant division.

Whithread acquired the chain as part of its £46 million purchase of the Bright-Reasons restaurant chain at the end of last year. But the company made it clear that it would put the chain up for sale as it overlapped with its existing Pizza interests which include Pizza Hut.

restaurants in the South of England, Jeremy Long, who was formerly managing director at Pavilion Services, will serve as chairman of the new company, while Ivan Taylor, who was managing director of BrightReasons, becomes chief executive. The buy-in is being backed by 3i and

Banque Indosuez.

Whitbread shares closed down 14¹2p at 773¹2p, while shares in Queensborough fell 1 2p to 32p.

APV blames market for fall

Tough market conditions were blamed for a sharp fall in profits at APV, the supplier of equipment and services to the food industry.

In the year to December 31, pre-tax profits were £15 million compared with £26.9 million a year earlier, on turnover that fell to E772 million from £881.9 million.

Restructuring costs were [16 million compared with E10.5 million a year ago. Orders in the first two months of this year are 15 per cent lower than a year ago.

Earnings per share were 3.7p (7.2p) and the final dividend of 1.7p (1p) gives a maintained full-year dividend of 2.7p. which is payable on Tempus, page 28

Usborne ahead

Ushorne, the agricultural services group headed by Lord Parkinson, has increased its first-half pre-tax profits to £416,000. Fertiliser blending performed ahead of targets, but the company is again not paying an interim dividend.

Wm Morrison moves South

By Sarah Cunningham

WM MORRISON, the Yorkshire supermarkets group, is to open its first branches in the South of England next year. The group, which did not open any new stores in 1996, is planning five this year and

five next year. It expects to

create up to 2,250 new full- and part-time jobs in 1998. The branches in the South will be at Erith in Kent and Banbury in Oxfordshire. The other three will be in

Yorkshire. The company, headed by Kenneth Morrison, chairman and managing director, announced its expansion plans yesterday along with its results for the year ended February 2. It made a pre-tax profit of £135.8 million compared

with £127.1 million a year ago. Analysts said that while the ing was disappointing. Like-



Morrison: new stores

for-like sales were up 1.5 per cent and growth slowed in the first few weeks of this year to just 0.4 per cent.

Earnings per share were 11.01p (10.67p) and the final dividend of 1.375p (1.125p), payable on May 16, gives a

Talks on Tesco's Irish bid resume

By Sarah Cunningham

TALKS between Tesco, the some £55 million of operating supermarkets group, and Associated British Foods (ABF) about the purchase of the food manufacturer's Irish supermarkets were back on yesterday, Tesco said, after breaking down late on Wed-

nesday over price.

Sources close to the company said that a deal, which would propel Tesco to market leadership in Ireland, could be ready today or early next week, but there is still a slim chance that no compromise over price will be reached.

Tesco is expected to pay between £600 million and £650 million for the 110 stores which make up the Stewarts and Crazy Prices chain in Northern Ireland and the Quinnsworth chain in the Irish Republic. The businesslion of sales last year and O'Reilly, the Heinz chief.

The deal would give Tesco a 26 per cent share of the market in the Republic of Ireland and a 30 per cent

share in Northern Ireland. Tesco is understood to have walked out of the talks on Wednesday evening because ABF, which is run by Garry Weston, was insisting on too high a price.

Tesco, the market leader in Britain, has one Metro store in Northern Ireland. Together with J Sainsbury, it has run into difficulties obtaining planning permission for large stores there.

Safeway's name has been linked to a bid for the whole or part of Wellworths, the supermarkets group owned by Fitzwilton group, the in-

Standard life's Ammual Report and Accommistoralite year ended 15 November 1996

The Group

- Group assets under management increased by some £6bn to just under £50bn. Total new premiums worldwide increased by almost 30% to £2.6bn.
- For companies such as Standard Life, which are financially strong and operationally efficient, mutuality is clearly in the best interests of current and future policyholders. The Company is, therefore, not presently considering demutualisation.

United Kingdom

- 1996 was an exceptional year for new business, with an increase in total new premiums of over 40%.
- Standard Life's reputation with Independent Financial Advisers as the premier life assurance company was reflected in the awards received from them during the year; these included 'IFA Company of the Year'.
- The Company took possession of a new Head Office in Lothian Road, Edinburgh.

Canada

- Investment performance was again in the top quartile in independent surveys.
- The Company undertook a number of initiatives designed to meet the needs of its customers including the launch of a Customer Services Centre and the introduction of a Customer Satisfaction Guarantee.

Republic of Ireland

 Annual premium new business increased by nearly 20% and single premium business by almost 90%. Group pensions business also grew strongly as a result of outstanding investment performance.

Significant progress has been made in building a business in Germany following the opening of an office in Frankfurt.

Spain

▶ 1996 was a very successful year for Prosperity SA which now sells through 31 branches. Total new premiums increased by 40%.

 Standard Life continues to work with its joint venture partner, Housing Development and Finance Corporation, on the initial preparatory work required to set up a new life assurance company.

China

 A Representative Office was opened in Shanghai and a General Manager (Pacific Region) was appointed

The Annual Report and Accounts, including the Agenda for the Annual General Meeting to be held on Tuesday 22 April, will be available from Tuesday 1 April. Policyholders may obtain a copy by writing to the Customer Information Team at PO Box 141, 1 Tanfield, Edinburgh EH3 SRG or by telephoning (0131) 245 2668. Proxy forms may be similarly obtained by members entitled to vote.



The Standard Life Assurance Company* is a mutual company registered in Scotland (no SZ4) Head Office Standard Life House 30 Lothian Road Edinburgh Tel (0131) 225-2552
The Standard Life marketing group includes Standard Life Pension Funds Limited*† Standard Life Trust Management Limited*† Standard Life Fund Management Limited*† *Regulated by the Personal Investment Authority †Regulated by IMRO

Mr Allan said that Tidewater had approached Ocean with an offer for the

global logistics market."

BY CARL MORTISHED

OCEAN, the logistics and marine services

group, is selling OIL, its offshore oil

services business to Tidewater, an Ameri-

The sale is expected to generate a pre-

tax profit of £228 million and Ocean

Group will reinvest the proceeds in

MSAS, its logistics business. John Allan,

chief executive, said: "This sale will

enable us to accelerate our progress

towards our primary objective - to

become a world leader in the fast-growing

can competitor, for £328 million.

offshore business. He added that OIL was a capital-intensive business that would require heavy investment in due course. and that he believed Ocean was selling the business well into the growth cycle.

OIL has a fleet of 100 ships servicing offshore oil installations in the North Sea.

Ocean sells OIL for £328m

West Africa, the Middle East and South America. The deal will reinforce Tidewater's position as the market leader in the business at a time of increased activity in offshore exploration. Tidewater is the biggest operator in the Gulf of Mexico but has little presence in the North Sea or West Africa. Last year, Oll made an operating profit of £21.1 million and had capital employed of E91.8 million.

Ocean had balance sheet gearing of only 6 per cent at the year end and the deal will give the company substantial cash resources for acquisitions. Mr Allan said he was seeking opportunities to extend Ocean's logistics husiness in the S. Europe and Southeast Asia.

The sale of OIL reinforces the shift in Ocean's business from asset-based to information technology-based services. In 1995, the company announced a £26 million restructuring of the group and last year managed to raise operating margins at MSAS to 3 per cent a year ahead of schedule.

Tempus, page 28

TEMPUS

Ocean catches the tide



MICHAEL CLARK

Greenspan sends London and New York tumbling

THE mere threat to raise US interest rates by Alan Greenspan, Chairman of the Federal Reserve, was enough to throw financial markets on both sides of the Atlantic into a

He was again giving evidence to Congress and said that while he saw no sign of inflationary pressure, any delay in pre-empting it with rate rises would jeopardise economic growth.

His comments struck a note with those investors who expect the next rise in rates to signal the start of the longwaited correction in financial

Within minutes of his comments, the Dow Jones industrial average had plunged almost 80 points. It also left the FT-SE 100 index nursing a fall of 74.1 at 4.258.1, having been 80.7 down at its worst.

London had opened lower and beat a steady reteat throughout the session. The expected drop in the inflation rate was not enough to counter the uncertain political outlook and the almost certain prospect of a rise in domestic rates after the general election.

But it seems that yesterday's sell-off had at last extended to the second liners with the FT-SE mid-250 losing 87.7 at

Investors appear to be adopting a defensive stance ahead of the general election, which may account for the revival of interest in the food retailers. The latest AGB suvey showed Tesco, up 5p at 339p, gaining ground against J Sainsbury, its biggest rival. lp firmer at 32912p. But Safeway is also gaining ground at the expense of Sainsbury and celebrated with a rise of 7¹₂p at 353p. Wmr. Morrison, which came in with profits matching market

firmer at 1491 2p. The City gave the thumbsup to full-year figures from Guinness, 1512p dearer at

Securicor fell 21p to 29412p after shareholders were told at the annual meeting that writeoffs totalling £18 million were to be made. But brokers say should prove short-lived. Henderson Crosthwaite estimates the break-up value of the group to be worth at least 400p a share, including its 40 per cent stake in Cellnet, which is reckoned to carry a price-tag of at least £1 billion.



Ian Menzies-Gow, right, and Mark Pullen of Geest, down 212p, who have raised profits 73 per cent after disposing of bananas

British Steel, up 14p at 15914p, is expected to announce today plans to axe around 5,000 jobs over the next five years. The group is accelerating its restructuring programme, having already made known its desire to shed up to 1,000 jobs a year. The group has blamed the strong pound for the move, claiming it has only added to the

lower. Barclays fell 45p to £10.3212, HSBC was 3912p down to £14.75, LLoyds TSB dropped 2212p to 47612p. Royal Bank of Scotland was 21p off at 530p, Abbey National was 14p lower at 718p. National Westminster was 17p down at 68612p, and Bank of Scotland 1312p cheaper at 31512p. Even Standard Chartered, Lehman's favourite

PizzaExpress is going from strength to strength with the price leaping 32'2p to a high of 710'2p. That compares with last year's low of 216p. The group is opening a further 20 cash generating outlets. Credit Lyonnais Laing and Kleinwort Benson, the brokers, are both buyers of the stock.

depressed steel market.

The banks came under a cloud after Lehman Brothers, the US securities house, turned bearish of the sector after its recent strong run. Credit Lyonnais Laing, the broker, which is thought to have built up a large bull position in bank shares this year, may beg to differ, but prices ended the day sharply

problems of operating in the stock in the sector, finished 21p

down at 82712p.
Worries about regulatory pressure dragged Stagecoach a further 1712p lower at 671p, stretching the loss over the past couple of days to 57p. National Express fell 912p to 52012p after figures.

Brixton Estates is also blaming the strong pound for its misfortunes. Its net asset value has fallen by almost 4



20¹2p to 182p.

News of difficult trading conditions which are expected to affect first-half results "significantly" left Carisbrooke Shipping down 10p at 7012p.

Vision Group tumbled 70p to 250p after warning that a slippage" in implementation programmes that would affect second-half results. Profits in the first six months of the video conferencing specialist saw the group return to the black. But there was strong support for Telspec, with the price rising 30p to 22712p after reporting losses of £9 million. Shares of London Bridge Software made a solid debut on the big board after a placing by Henderson Crosthwaite at 200p. The price opened at 259p and touched a high for the day of 27812p before closing at 26112p, a

premium of 6112p. KBC Advanced Technology got off to a brisk start in first-time trading after a placing at 195p. The price opened at 24312p before closing at its best of the day with a rise of 5212p at 27712p. Over on AIM. Total Office

Group made a confident start with the shares opening at 15212p compared with the placing price of 145p. After dipping to 150¹2p, the price recovered to close at 152¹2p, a premium of 712p.

The sale of its banana

interest helped Geest, headed by Ian Menzies-Gow, chairman, and Mark Pullen, finance director, to boost profits last year by 73 per cent to £17.3 million. Action to stem losses in other parts of the business have also proved successful and now the group is expanding into other areas of the food market. The share ended down 212p at 25212p.

GILT-EDGED: Gilts followed US Treasury bonds and German bunds lower. The drop in inflation in February and the latest money supply figures had little impact.

The June series of the long gilt finished £30 lower at £1081516 as a total of 82,000 contracts were completed. Treasury 8 per cent 2015

closed £516 lower at £10238, was £316 off at El021332. □ NEW YORK: Technology shares rebounded even as the fear of an impending increase in interest rates sent the Dow Jones industrial average lower. By midday it was down 48.34 points at 6,829.34.

MAJOR INDICES

New York (midday): 781.85 (-3.9**2**) Hong Kong: Amsterdam: Sydney: Frankfurt 3264.67 (-51.26)

Zurich: FTSE MIC 250 ... 2105.7 (-37.4) FTSE Eurotrack 100 2121.04 (-19.99 2079.85 (-35.55) FT All-Share ... FT Non Financials _____ 2147.29 (-28.73)
FT Fixed Interest _____ 118.05 (-0.05) FT Govi Secs 🗻 1167.7m German Mark 2.6886 (+0.003

RPI 155.0 Feb (2.7%) Jan 1987=100 RPIX 154.5 Feb (2.9%) Jan 1987=100

Bank of England official close (4pm)

RECENT ISSUES

Aortech	1201:	
Aurora Inv Trust	100	
Birmingham City	451:	- 1
Cambridge Mini Res	14	
Centrica (751:)	564	- 2
Core Group	301	
Dobbies Garden	260	
Donatantonio	71'5	
Energy Group (525)	46612	- 17
Girovend Csh Sys	1881:	
Howie	31	
KBC Advanced	2471:	
London Bridge Sftw	2615	•••
M & G High Capital	9	
M & G High Income	68¹:	
M & G High Pckg	100	+ 2
M & G High Unit	80	+]'
Nord Anglo Eductn	14312	- 6
Psd Group	2621:	- I
River & Merc 1st UK	991,	- 1
Screen	51.	
Technoplast	974	- 13
Total Office Gro	1521:	
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RIGHTS ISSUES

Usher of Trowbridge 120':

Grantchstr n/p (137)	3612	-
PTS n/p (100)	14	-
Partco n/p (300)	321;	-
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MAJOR CHANGES

RISES:	
Guinness	501'ap (+15'ap)
Siebe	. 1042p (+2712p)
PizzaExpress	710'sp (+32p)
Racal Elect	297p (+ 12':p)
Ocean Gp	529':p (+20p)
Telspec	227'.p (+30p)
FALLS:	
Bank Scot	315½p (-24p)
Comm Union	641n (-37n)

Legal & Gen 386'-p (-21'-p)

Cable & Wireless 489p (-20p)

BAT Ind 489p (-18'zp)

P&O Dld 630p (-28p)

Lloyds TSB

Pru Coro

..... (-15130)

476':p (-22':p)

...... 552p (-17'-p)

The success of Kilkenny its markets picking up

rigs, barges and tenders, all to the benefit of none in Tidewater's home parch in the Gulf of to 3 percent and hopes to attain the 4 per cent

why bother? Assuming OIL's 1997 profits reach £24 million, the forward exit multiple is 19 times, an attractive price for a cyclical business which will need to spend heavily on ships just in time for the downturn.

OCEAN GROUP just had to sit back and

wait. The frenetic pace of activity offshore in

the Gulf of Mexico has created a shortage of

oil service companies. OIL has 100 vessels,

Mexico but the ships can be moved and the

American buyer of OIL will be keen to get a

foothold in West Africa. OIL has a big outpost

on Bonny Island in Nigeria, convenient given

the intense interest by the oil majors in the

deepwater oil prospects off the Nigerian coast:

Ocean could have held out for more, but

likewise. OIL's presence in Brazil.

Ocean wants to expand its international logistics business, MSAS. This is a far cry from the trucking and warehousing operations run by Salvesen or NFC. MSAS is an airfreight business that does not own a single plane, servicing high volume manufacturers such as Compaq, Intel, Kodak and Sony, which need just in time delivery throughout the world. Margins are thin but Ocean has, managed to raise its return on sales by a point earned by US competitors. It will get there through efficiency, consolidating freight and getting better prices from airlines. Small acquisitions will help to add scale to MSAS. but this business does not need capital and Ocean will need to find other reasons to hold on to all its cash.

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The problem is how to invest the proceeds.

Nat Express

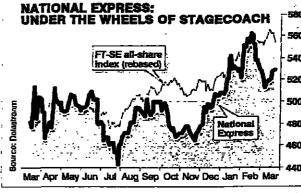
NATIONAL EXPRESS has been hit by some of the mud thrown at Stagecoach, its rowdy cousin and the pantomime villain of the sector. The fiasco at South West Trains shows what can happen to companies who get it wrong but National Express, by far the biggest of the train operators, should not be prejudged.

Firstly, Stagecoach runs one mainland franchise, to National Express' five. Secondly, while Stagecoach has run aground in its attempt to cut costs, National Express has succeded in axing some 20 per cent of staff from its rail franchises with barely a whisper from the unions.

The two companies have different strategies: National Express is looking for revenue growth and winning people away from the car. where

strategy of National Express is controversial - rail traffic has been in long term dedine However, National Express is making money from the railways, while Stagecoach has burnt its fingers and won powerful enemies. Politics may be important;

National Express has the Stagecoach is relying on dubious honour of being lower costs to improve mar-Britain's most heavily subsigins and profits. The growth dised company. It will re-ceive about £500 million from the Exchequer next year, and the Labour commitment to public transport could be crucial to its growth strategy. A clean record, too, might be useful in protecting the subsidies.



Guinness

GUINNESS is so intimately linked with the ubiquitous stout that the company struggles to transfer the strength of its brand name to other beers. Valiant attempts have been made to expand, but the likes of Harp and Enigma. have barely succeeded in the market, let alone worldwide.

There are signs that the company has found a winner in Kilkenny, the cold-flow bitter. Languishing in pubs for almost ten years, the success of Bass's Caffreys has created a market for Irish bitter, and one that Guinness has quickly been able to exploit. Bass chose to sell Caffreys as an Irish Ale. allowing Guinness - which ooasts a near monopoly on Irishness - an easy entry into the new market.

allowed Tony Greener, chairman of Guinness, to sound positive yesterday. With spir-

around the world and the core Guinness beer products expanding quickly in new regions, Guinness finally seems to be in growth mode again.

Currency problems will restrict the increase in headline profits to a mere 2 per cent this year, although another share buyback could flatter numbers. Guinness stands on an undemanding forward price earnings multiple of around 14 times, but it may be another year before the shares pick up steam.

WHAT is to be done with APV? Years of restructuring have left the company smaller but still struggling with pitiful margins. A business upturn in October has been reversed with a 15 per cent fall in the order book in January and February. A Russian order could send it back up again but the buyer is still ar-

sells its equipment to big, international food manufacturers like Unilever. In costcutting mode themselves, they can dictate prices. Resistance is futile because the buyer merely shifts the order to APV's competitors, GEA or Alfa-Laval. Logic suggests that consolidation is needed, but competition issues could be tricky and each party wants to be strong enough to lead any merger.

So the cost-cutting continues. APV should save another Ell million in the current year as the remaining restructuring provision is expensed. That boosted the shares, as did a pension credit of £8 million. A smaller workforce means that APV gets a pension holiday which should continue well into the next century

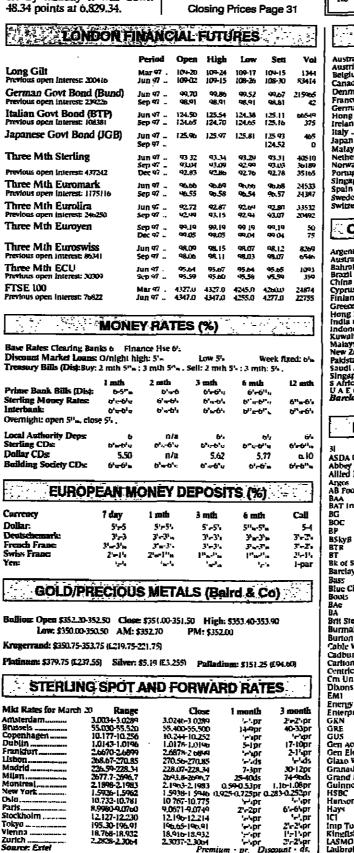
A cynical stock market likes these little fillips, but APV needs growth in sales, not a windfall from redundancies.

ranging funds.

APV's problem is that it EDITED BY CARL MORTISHED

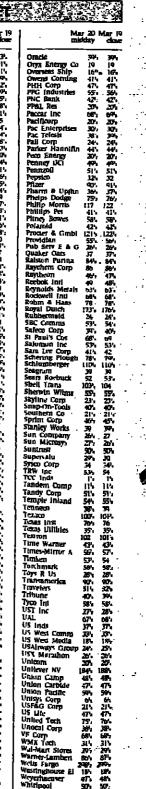
	COMMODITIES	
LIFFE	ICIS-LOR (London 6.00pm)	GNI LONDON GRAIN FUTURES
COCCOA May 1074-1072 May 1032-1031 May 1074-1072 May 1032-1031 May 1037-1036 May 1039-1036 Sep 1098-1010 Sep 1098-1010 Dec 1048-1042 Dec 1112-1110 Dec 1048-1043 Vulume: 9459 Mar 1064-1053 Vulume: 9459 May 1625-1620 May 1	CRUDE OILS (\$/barrel FOB) Brent Physical	LIFFE WHEAT (dose L/0) Mar
Jul 1650 SLR Mar 1905-1570 Sep 1672-1640 Volume 4330 WHITÉ SUGAR (FOB) Renters Dec 300,0-48,5 Sput n/a May 303,4-00.0 May 307,0-01.0 May 307,0-01.0 Jun 107,0-01.0 Jun 107,0-01.0	Premium Unid 212 (<-2) 214 (<-3) 214 (<-3) 215 (<-2) 214 (<-3) 215 (<-2) 216 (<-2) 216 (<-2) 217 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2) 218 (<-2)	May
MEAT & LIVESTOCK COMMISSION Average latitock prices at representative markets on March 19 (prikg by) Pig Sheep Cattle GR:	May 174 50-74.75 Aug . 177 50-77.75 Jun 175.25-75.50 Vol: 10801 BRENT (6.00pm) May 20.37-20.39 Aug 19.91 BID Jun 20.23-20.26 Sep 19.80 BID Jul 20.12-20.13 Vol: 23473	High Low Close Mar 97 1520 1520 1520 1520 Apr 97 1050 1006 1035 May 97 1600 1595 1600 Jul 97 1335 1333 1335 Vol: 389 lots Open interest: 3215
(e/-) 4.42 40.9 40.3 Engravales. 80.71 48.71 79.8 (1/-) 4.42 -3.74 40.57 (34 +60 +20 +160 Scotland: unq 143.16 102.14 (e/-) -44 -0.82 (84 -10.11 +33.0)	(Official) (Volume prev day) Copper Gde A (\$/tonne)	690.00 692.00-693.00 198650 1281.0 1302.0-1302.5 624925 6000.0 6010.0-6015.0 20125 1626.0 1658.0-1659.0 1794600
	LIFFE OPTIONS	
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Calles Parts Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Calls Pass Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct

Average fatstock prices at representative	May 20.37-20.39 Aug 19.91 B1D Jun 20.23-20.26 Sep 19.80 B1D	Jul 97 1335 1330 1335
Durkels on March 19	Jun 20.23-20.26 Sep 19.80 BID Jul 20.12-20.13 Vol: 23473	Vol: 389 lots Open interest: 3215
(p/kg lw) Pip Sheep Cattle	Va. 11 11 12 12 13 14 15 15 16 16 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17 17	HIGH ING TO
GB:F0.71 146.71 98.62	MOST AND A LONDON	
(+/-)		METAL EXCHANGE Rudolf Wolff
	Copper Gde A (\$/tonne) Cash: 2363.0-	
(9/7)	Lead (Stionne) 695.00-	
Scotland: шла 143 (с. 101 (д.	Zinc Spec Hi Gde (\$/tonne) 1290.0-	
(*/-)	Tin (5/tonne) 5990.04 Aluminium Hi Gde (\$/tonne) 1625.0-1	
(%)	Nickel (\$/jonne) 7875.0-7	
	LIEU COMONO	
<u></u>	LIFFE OPTIONS	
Calls Parts		<u></u>
Calls Puts Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Calls Pass	Calls Pats
	Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct
Alid Dom 420 31' 39 46' 2 12' 16' 16'419) 460' 7 17 27' 18 33 37'	BAA 500 17': 30': 37 6': 19 22's	Abby Nat 700 31's 56's 69 10 26 35
ASDA 800 97 127 14 07, 2 47.	(508) 550 14 94 19: 42 50 524	[719] 750 8', 32', 44 36', 52 60',
(*108°s) 110 3 b' 8', 3' b a	Tharnes W., 650 191, 42, 40, 151, 44, 46	Amstrad 140
Boots 650 42 55 62 21, 141, 191,	[7054] 700 4 22 25 48°; 76°, 78	(ung) 160
(°687) 700 10 25 345 20 77 40.	100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Barclays 1000 46 814 96 42 234 42
Br Alrways 6(0) 30 51': 62', 3', 15', 21'.	N-2-84 4 51 54	(*1035) 1050 17 53', 68', 28 45 64';
["213": 650 8": 24 37 23 40 4n	Scries May Aug Nov May Aug Nov	Nail Perr 450 264 5
BP	BTR 240 221, 20 321, 11, 7 9	(*472) 500 3'1 20'1 20'1 30'7, 50'1 S6'2
(706) 750 4'. 20 30 45 57 bit.		
Br Steel 140 20 22 23 0 4 5	172571,1 260 10 161, 201, 101, 141, 171, Br Acro 1300 69 1041, 1271, 28 44 561,	Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct
(*159%) 100 4 9 10 5 12, 14	C1327'J 1390 42', 78 101 51', 67 79	Glavo W 1050 46 32': 95': 12 30 48
CAW 460 to 50 50 50 5 16 30 1990 5 16 30 1990 500 115 27 375 17 33 199	Br Telcm 420 44 53 56 31 [21]41	(*1083'4) 1100 IP. 54', 68'; 31 52'; 71
	(*158) 460 lb': 27': 30 15 30': 32	HSBC 1450 555:110 1365 215 585 815
francis .	Cadhury _ , 500 43°, 57 62 6 12 15°	(*1476) 1500 ZFF1 84 110 45 82°1104°1
(C) 30 (1) (1) (1) (1)	(*533°-) 550 14°- 28 35 20°- 33 37	Restret 600 25 51 641; 14 24 26
Mary 20 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100 100	Guinness 500 lef: 27 33', 22 27', 30	(400gr) 950 97 28 41 45 45 23
Land Sec 750 12' . 33 30' 7' 25 31	[PSO(5) 550 35 105 165 625 635 645	Royal & Son 431 20 9;
(*759) 800 2 H 18°; 41 60 63°.	GEC 360 25 32': 37 9, 14', 17'2	(°444) 460 6 10°, 20 20 28 35
M & S 460 to 27 35', 7 18', 23'	1°57(s) 390 9 (b) 22 (9 30), 33	Series May Aug Nov May Aug Nov
(*Ho8) 500 F. (0: 18 1) 41 45	Hanson 300 lb 23°: 28 l0 13°, 19	
Nat West 1190 45 67 729; 21 101; 25	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	Blue Circ 340 285 35', 42 9 14', 30',
170,970 7UU 11, 38, 17 17, 77 50.		(*412%) 430 11 21 27', 24', 30 35',
Salescay pic 380 20', 33', 38 1', 10', 14	3 241	Series May Aug Nov May App Nov
1'352'-1 360 7', 16', 23 12' 26 39', Salasbury 300 51', 36 40', 10', n', n'	(*199) 200 9 [5] 181 104 124 17	
	Pilkingra 130 11 4 - 4 9 -	
- 7: 1/ 25 8 14 ZI	(*135°4) 140 b 1 - 8', 13 -	1 = 11
(1000)	Prudential . 550 17', 13', 42', 25 33', 40	ScriesMar Jun Mar Jun
Combi Date	(*554) NIO 5'1 15'1 Z3'1 62 67 71'1	Br Gas 220 (6 (3
(*IO)()	Rediand 360 17 23', 31', 10', 26', 30	(*229 240 6); 27,
Storeher. 300	("362")) 390 5"; [2", 20 41", 46", 46",	SeriesMar Jun SepMar Jun Sep
(ung) 330	R-Rayce 220 17 26 30 7 12 14	, <u> </u>
Tradalpar 50	C232) 240 7 16 20 171, 221, 24	to a mark to the same to the s
lung) 61	Tesco 330 17 247 305 11 157 107	150974)
Zeriera 1700 81 132 177 22°- 55°: 74	1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1 1	(*11.39) 1150 47 72': 83': 54 70 84
(*1751) [801] 31 S25 [19], 695 [04] 121		Tarrasc 90 7 10 11 4: 5 7:
Series Apr Jul Oct Apr Jul Oct	(unqi 360 — — — — —	(93'4) 100 3 6 7 11 11 13'2
PATING 1	FTSE INDEX (4263)	Hillsdwn 180 9 11 - 4: [[-
[*4*2] 500 125 32 40 16 33 cm	· ·	(*184) 200 in 4 - 25 25t -
Vodatone _ 360 18 28' 34' 3' 11 15	4150 4200 4250 4300 4350 4400	Longtho 140 13 164 194 5 77, 9
(*Z74) 200 7 18 24': 12': 20': 24':	Calls	(*147's) 160 4 7', 11 16 18', 20
Series May Aug Nov May Aug Nov	Man 113 cm	Sears
Cond No.		
F494 S00 15 35 361 17 35 75		Thorn EM 1900
Ladbroke 220 13 20 245 5 81 111	May 177: 143 1115 835 60 42 Sun 207: 176 (44 (5: 9) 68.	<u> </u>
(*220°3) 240°4°11°14°14°15°55°	Det - 202: - 210: - 1821.	Tombass 260 20 245 27, 71 17, 151, (7869)
Utd Bisc 220 17, 23, 27 5 8, 11	Puts	Lioyds TSB. 460 35'; 46 55'; 12', 20'; 26
(*2.17°) 240 5', 13', 17 15', 18', 23	Mar ! 2 0', 42', 92 10	(*477) 500 (5% 26% 36 32% 4) 45%
March 3), 160: Ton sesso Cally poor	APT 315 425 625 87 117 155	Scot Pwr 330 24 30 33 44 16 18'
THE 4.5MS RIVE Call that The year.	May 59° 74°, 92°, 114°, 142, 1744	(°341) 360 4, 15 185 255 33 185
Underlying security price.	JUN 81's 99 116 149 165's 102	Uniterer_ 1500 100 141 150 15 25 33
C COURT SOUTH SOUTH A DUTTE	Jun 81': 99 1 6 139 65': 103 Dec 163 204': 252':	(*1598'-) 1600 44'- 80 47 54 45', 72',



	DC	LLA	R RATES	3
ai	Australia		1.267	5-1.2683
H 4	Belgium (C	(mo	1.20/ 1.11/ 1.314 1.356 6.423 5.6877 1.294 1.565 1.687 1.230,0 2.475 1.296 6.751; 1.996 1.446 1.440	85-11. 9 6 77-34.78
6	Denmark		6.423	5-6.4265
PQ PQ	Germany .	··		1783.1-6
5	Ireland		1.565	-1.5709 -1.5709
5 0	Japan		123.00	123.05
0	Netherland	<u></u>	1.896 1.896	7-1.8977
5	Portugal		169.6	1-169.71
3	Spain			3-143.10
2	Switzerland	1	1.442	-1.4432
e 0 5			TERLIN	
9	Arcentina	neso"	1.595	 -1.5979
h 3	Australia d Bahroin di	ollar	2.0218	-2.0244 но.ысы
9	Brazil real China yvan		1.6867 13.125	-1.6910 -13.425
4 5	Cyprus pour Finland ma	ind irkka	0.8025 8.0475	+0.8125 +8.1635
,	Greece drag Hong Kong	:hma ; dollar	421.25 12.3572-	-428.25 12.3627
	India ruped Indonesia i	uplah .	57.0 3822_0	4-58.00 -3490.6
	Maiaysia ri	nggh	1595; 20218 0.5986; 13.125 8.0475 421.25 2.572; 3.8220; 0.4810 3.9400 7.2394; 63.630	+0.4910 -3 9520
	Pakistan ru	pee	2.043	75 Buy
	Singapore	dollar	3,7700 2,3068	-23091 -23091
	U A E dirha Barclays B	m	5,7700 2,3066 7,0560 5,8200 S = Lloyds Ba	-5. 911 0
	FTS	SE VO	DLUMES	
•				
	3l	2,300	Land Secs	2.800
	ASDA GD	14.500	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB	3,500 18,500
•	ASDA Gp Abbey Ntl Allled Dom Argos	14,500 4,600 3,000 1,700	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600
	ASDA GP Abbey Nti Allied Dom Argos AB Foods	14.500 4.600 3,000 1.700 564	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM NatWst Bl.	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600 1,100 7,900
•	ASDA GP Abbey Nil Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG	14.500 4.600 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12,200 12,400	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM NaiWsr Bk Nai Grid Nai Power	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200
•	ASDA GP Abbey Nil Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC BP	14,500 4,600 3,000 1,700 564 3,000 12,200 12,400 376 6,300	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM NaiWsr Bl. Nai Grid Nai Power Next Orange	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 3,700 1,100
	ASDA GP Abbey Ntl Allled Dom Arkos AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC	14,500 4,600 3,000 1,700 564 3,000 12,200 12,400 376 6,300 4,000 10,600	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucaxSrly Marks Spr MAM Nailwsr Bi, Nai Grid Nat Power Next Orange P & O Pearson	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 3,700 1,100 3,600 1,600
	ASDA GP Abbey Nil Allied Dom Arges AB Foods BAT BAT Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BT BT BT BK of Scot	14,500 4,600 3,000 1,700 564 3,000 12,200 12,400 376 6,300 4,000 10,600 21,200 7,000	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB Lloyds Yafty Marks Spr MAM NaiWsr Bi. Nai Grid Nai Power Next Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential	3,500 18,500 10,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 1,100 3,600 1,600 2,300 6,200
	ASDA GP Abbey Nit Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BT BK of Scot Bartlays Buss	14.500 4.600 3.000 1.700 5.200 12,400 376 4.000 10,600 21,200 7.000 1,500	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM NatWar Bi. Nat Grid Nat Power Next Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 1,100 1,600 2,300 6,200 1,100 2,300 6,200 1,100
	ASDA GP Abbey Nit Allled Dom Arges AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BT BK of Scot Barclays Buss Buss Blue Circle Bools BAA	14.500 4.500 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12,200 12,400 376 6.300 4.000 7.000 7.000 7.000 1.500 3.300 2.200 7.0000 7.000	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM Nat Sower Nest Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralltrack	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 3,700 1,100 1,600 2,300 6,200 6,200 6,200
	ASDA GP Abbey Nit Allled Dom Arges AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BT BK of Scot Barclays Buss Buss Blue Circle Bools BAA	14.500 4.500 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12,200 12,400 376 6.300 4.000 7.000 7.000 7.000 1.500 3.300 2.200 7.0000 7.000	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucavVarity Marks Spr MAM Nai War Bk Nai Grid Nai Power Nexi Orange P & O Pearson Prodential RMC RTZ Railtrack Rank Group Recktit Cot Reed Intil	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 3,700 1,100 1,600 2,300 6,200 6,200 6,200
	ASDA GP Abbey Nit Allied Dom Arges AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BT BK of Scot Barclays Bass Blue Circle Boots BAe BA BAE BAE BAE BAE BAE BAE BAE BAT Steel Burnah Cst	14.500 4.600 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12,200 12,200 12,200 4.000 21,200 7.000 21,200 7.000 21,200 2,200 1.500 2,200 1.500 2,200 1.500 2,200 1.500 2,200 1.500 2,200 1.500 1	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB Lucavarity Marks Spr MAM Nat War Bb. Nat Grid Nat Power Next Ocrange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralltrack Rank Group Reckitt Coul Reckitt Coul Reckitt Coul Reckitt Coul Reckitt Renki	3,500 18,500 18,500 7,500 1,100 7,900 8,600 5,200 3,700 1,500 2,200 6,200 6,200 1,60
	ASDA GP Abbey Nii Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BK of Soot Barclays Buse Circle Boots BAe BA BA BAT Steel Burnon Cable Wire	14.500 4.500 1.700 564 3.000 12.400 12.400 12.400 10.600 21.200 7.000 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.500 1.28	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM NatWar Bt. Nat Grid Nat Power Next Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralitrack Rank Group Reckin Col Reced intl Rentitl Intl Reuters Royal & Sun	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 1,100 7,900 8,600 1,100 3,700 1,600 1,600 1,600 2,200 2,200 2,200 4,700 4,700 4,700 4,700 4,700 4,700
	ASDA Cp Abbey Nil Allied Dom Arges AB Foods BAA Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BK of Seot Barelays Bass Blue Circle Boots BAA Brit Steel Burnah Cst Burnah Cst Burnah Cst Burnah Cst Cable Wire Cadbury Carton Cm:	14.500 4.500 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12.200 12.400 7.000 21.200 7.000 1.500 23.200 1.500 2.500 1.500 2.500 1.500 2.500 1.500 2.500 1.5	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM Nai Grid Nat Power Next Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralitrack Rank Group Reckin Coil Recd Intil Rentki Intil Rentki Intil Rentki Intil Rentki Intil Rentki Royce Royal & Sun Royal & Sun Royal & Sun Royal & Safeway	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 1,100 3,700 1,100 3,700 1,100 2,200 6,200 1,100 2,200 6,200 1,100 2,200 6,200 1,100 1,60
	ASDA CP Abbey Nii Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA Inds BG BOC BP BSkyB BTR BT Bk of Scot Barclays Bass Blue Circle Boots BAA Brit Steel Burmah Cst Burnah Cst Burnah Cst Burnah Cst Cabbury Cariton Cre Cretrica Cm Union	14.500 4.900 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12.400 376 6.300 4.000 10.000 21.500 1.500 2.300 1.500	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucavSrahy Marks Spr MAM Nai War Bk, Nai Grid Nat Power Next Orange P & O Penrson PewerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Railtrack Rank Group Recktit Cot Recd Intil Rentki int Rentki int Rentki int Rentki Rolls Royce Royal & Sun Royal & Sun Royal & Sun Safeway Salmsbury Schroders	3,500 18,500 16,700 7,600 7,600 8,600 5,200 3,700 1,100 2,300 6,200 1,600 2,700 9,900 1,60
	ASDA CP Abbey Nit Allied Dom Arges AB Foods BAA BG BOC BP BSISYB BTR BT of Scot Barclays Bass Blue Circle Boots BAA Both Steel Burnah Cst Burnon Cable Wire Cadbury Cartion Cmi Centicla Cm Union Diaons EM1	14.500 4.900 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12.400 376 6.300 4.000 19.600 21.300 1.900 21.300 1.900 2.300 1.200	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM Nai War Bk. Nai Grid Nai Fower Near Orange P & O Pearson PewerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralltrack Rank Group Reckin Col Reced intil Rentki Int	3,500 (8,500 (1,500 7,500 1,100 7,900 8,600 1,100 3,700 1,100 2,300 6,200 1,500 2,200 6,200 1,50
	ASDA Cp Abbey Nil Allied Dom Arges AB Foods BAA BAT Inds BAT BBT BT B	14.500 4.900 3.000 1.700 564 3.000 12.200 376 6.300 4.000 14.600 21.200 7.300 7.300 1.500 2.800 1.200 6.200 6.200 6.200 6.200 6.200 6.200 6.200 7.300	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB Lucavarity Marks Spr MAM Nai War BB. Nai Grid Nai Power Near Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Ralltrack Rank Group Reckin Col Recd Inti Rentki int Rentki int Rentki int Royai & Saleway Saleway Saleway Schroders Sord Power Svm Trent Sheli Trans Sheli Trans	3.500 18,500 18,500 7,400 7,400 5,200 5,200 3,700 1,100 2,200 6,200 1,20
	ASDA GP Abbey Nit Allied Dom Argos AB Foods BAA Inds BBA Inds BBG BOC BP BSkyB BT BK of Scot Barclays Buc Circle Boots BAA BAT BK of Scot Barclays Buc Circle Boots BAA BA	14.500 4.900 3.000 1.700 500 12.400 376 6.300 10.200 11.400 27.000 7.000 7.000 1.500 2.300 1.500 6.200	Legal & Gn Lloyds TSB LucasVarity Marks Spr MAM Naires & Bi Nair Grid Nair Power Next Orange P & O Pearson PowerGen Prudential RMC RTZ Railtrack Railtrack RRIZ Railtrack RRIZ Railtrack RRIZ Railtrack ROIR Rect Intil Reuters Rolls Royce Royal & Sun Royal Bk Sc Safeway Salmsbury Schroders Scot & New Scot Power Sym Trent Shell Trans Stehe Smki Bch	3.500 (18.500
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Losing nothing in translation

NERVES are frayed at Norwich Union, awaiting approval for its £5 billion flotation from regulators abroad. Documents have been sent to about 120 countries, but the Afghan regulator has yet to reply. Allan Bridgewater, chief executive, will be nibbling his nails until he hears from the Portuguese authorities. Originally, a request was put in for documents to be translated into the local lingo and sent to the 70 resident policyholders in question. Nev-er mind the fact that they are all sun-loving ex-pats.

Just the job

AGECCACH E

F7-23-E7

A DOUBLE celebration for Jeremy Tigue who is to take the reins at Foreign & Colonial, and walk up the aisle in the same

The 37-year-old Oxford graduate, who was yesterday hailed as the successor to Michael Hart, proposed in January. Enigmatically referred to as "Ruth", his wife works as a physiotherapist based in Cardiff. "I'm sick of the M4," sighs Tigue, who has persuaded his love to set up home in the capital after their wedding in Wales this Octo-ber. "When people congratulate me, I have to ask them what for, and some can get quite upset," he says.

Fool's gold

MORE from Food For Thought, the collection of eating habits from captains of industry, pub-lished in aid of Centrepoint. This time it's over to Peter Freeman, er executive o Argent, the property company, who shares with readers a favourite recipe for courgette soufflé. "Years ago - before the food and booze boom my ambition was to have a restaurant," writes Freeman, who claims to feel almost as at home in the kitchen as he does in the boardroom, "Sadly, 1 was sidetracked by the fool's gold of the property indus-



Tapped for cash

WATER industry staff will be wearing blue today, but not as a sign of their political allegiance. To raise money for WaterAid, thousands of employees are being encouraged to pay El each to don blue outfits for the international water charity. The event is expected to raise about £15,000 for safe water and sanitation projects in developing countries.

Sporting agents THE first Lloyd's members' agents merger this year, Kiln Cotesworth and Stewart, will this week become the third-largest members' agent by number of names. Adrian Graves, chief executive of the new Kiln Cotesworth Stewart, can now turn his attention to another marathon, the London Marathon Graves is also a keen abseiler, whose latest drop took him down the side of the Bowring Building. Meanwhile, David Whitehurst, managing director, prefers to flex his muscles on the demanding

MORAG PRESTON



ANATOLE KALETSKY

Why Tory comparisons on Europe are not working

Statistics have failed to stop British voters from looking in envy at the Continent

isn't working" has apparently been chosen as the theme of the Tories' main assault on Labour economic and foreign policies in the coming weeks. If so, the Government is making another big mistake - and not just for the obvious reason that putting the limelight on Europe will push into semi-detachment the party's two most effective campaigners - Michael Heseltine and Kenneth Clarke. Another objection is that the catchphrase about Europe will inevitably remind voters of the slogan "Labour Isn't Working", emblazoned over posters of an helped Margaret Thatcher win in 1979. The trouble with that none-too-subliminal association is that unemployment more than doubled within a year of the 1979 election and is still half a million higher than it was on the day when the Tories came to power.

It can, of course, be argued that many of the jobs lost in the last 18 years were artificial, subsidised and unproductive. It can also be added that the low unemployment typical of the pre-Thatcher period was incompatible with stable prices and peaceful industrial relations. Labour can claim that the unemployment rate never rose above 4.6 per cent before 1980 and has never since been below 5.5 per cent. But Labour must also admit that inflation accelerated throughout the 1960s and 1970s, rising to more than 20 per cent in 1974 and ann in 1980. Even ' constant strikes and the Napoleonic pretensions of trade union leaders made Britain in the 1970s feel alternately like a

war-zone and a lunatic asylum. The Tory philosophy since 1979 has been that "unemployment is a price worth paying for stable prices", as Norman Lamont once remarked in Parliament. Conventional wisdom now emphatically shares this view. But the political conse-quences of saying this loudly and in public can still be disastrous, as Mr Lamont would be the first to admit.

Britain's long-term record on jobs is thus a two-edged sword for the Government. It is presumably for this reason that the Tories have decided to focus not so much on Britain's own employment performance, but on how it compares with the rest of Europe. Given the recent contrast between Britain's excellent employment figures and the grim news from Germany and France, this is understandible. Nevertheless, there are

autumn in the opening phase of

an overseas push by the Los Angeles company. More stores

are planned for Paris and as far

afield as Hungary and Jordan.

company's strategy for Europe. I've been a fan of England for

many years, but in the last 24 months what has happened in

England has become undeni-

able," said Paul Marciano.

company president and one of

four brothers from Marseilles

who founded Guess? in Los

Angeles in 1981. "The British

economy is strong and expendi-

ture by consumers is jumping.

You can harely walk on the

streets around Knightsbridge

for people loaded down with

shopping bags. The excitement

is there. In Paris the feeling is

quite different. It's a gorgeous city, but the mood follows the

More British stores are

planned for Covent Garden.

Manchester and Glasgow. The

Guess? range is one of the

leading brands of jeans in the

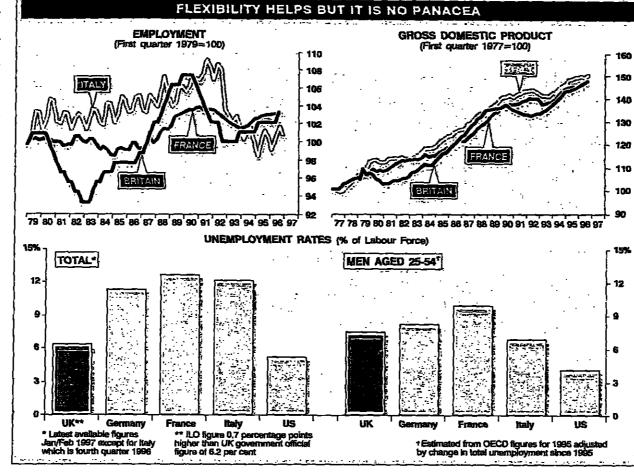
US. But although they have

been advertised in British

glossy magazines for years.

economy of France."

"London is the focus of the



almost certainly right that Britain has benefited because of its deregulated markets. In practice, the message may prove hard to sell. Whatever the statistics may say, it will be hard to convince voters that Britain is an economic titan while Germany is an eightstone weakling.

I can personally attest to this. in the past seven years, I have often argued that Germany's economic strength has been overstated, that the Bundesbank has mismanaged monetary policy, that the mark needs to be devalued, that Frankfurt will never become Europe's financial capital and that Germany's vaunted emphasis on the rust-belt of Europe.

Arguments like these can be based on sound economic theories and incontrovertible statistics, but let me share a little secret with Conservative Central Office: my mailbag suggests readers remain unconvinced. In fact, the more I point out that Germany, France and Italy have been running their economies rather badly, the more I find myself on the receiving end of incredulous and aggressive protests. usually from people who sound like hardcore Tories disgusted by what they feel has been Britain's incluctable slide in relative living standards, political

status and economic power. In part, the public's incredulity about Britain's status as the model economy of Europe reflects what economists call a "slow response-function". If a country has been in relative decline for a century or more, it is bound to take years, even decades or generations, for the conviction to grow that the trend has really been reversed. In theory, the Government is But there is more to the public's

scepticism than mere blind

The fact is that Britain's superiority over the other European economies is far from obvious. When Britons go to Germany, Italy and The Netherlands, or even Spain, they return impressed by the generally high living standards and efficient public services. The statistically inclined also know that Germany, France and Italy have all overtaken Britain in terms of per capita incomes - and some may even be aware that Ireland will, within the next year, achieve higher living standards than Britain "for the first time since the Dark Ages".

There are plenty of reasons to question the slogan that "Europe isn't working" from a statistical point of view. Starting with employment, Britain's performance may be better than Europe's at the moment, but it remains to be seen how much of the difference is due to the Tory policies of Elexibility and deregulation and how much is simply a consequence of the vagaries of the economic cycle. Britain's performance since 1993 has been excellent relative to the rest of Europe, but occurred during recovery from a horrendous recession, while the European economy -suffering from single currency obsession and Bundesbank misjudgments - has been

needlessly slowing down. in the long term, however, there has been almost no difference in the rate of job creation in Britain, France and Italy: all three have had an abysmal average growth rate of less than 0.2 per cent per year since 1979. (I have omitted Germany because unification

gave both employment and output a huge but temporary boost). There has also been little to choose between GDP

growth in Britain, Italy and France. These comparisons beg a fascinating question, to which I hope to return in another article. If flexibility and deregulation is really as beneficial as is generally believed, how much better would Italy, France and Germany have done than Britain if they, too, had made a bonfire of their regulations and red tape? As the two charts in the top panel illustrate, Britain's lack-

lustre relative performance is not just a consequence of taking 1979 as a starting point. Britain ot nave done muc better if the comparisons had started with 1987 or 1990. In this sense it is not sufficient for the Tories to claim that Britain would have done much better had it not been for the mess left behind by the Labour governments of the 1970s. That is true, but it is equally valid to point out the mess left behind by Nigel Lawson and John Major when they were Chancellor. Only by starting from 1982-83 or 1991-92 - from the depths of the two great recessions - can Britain claim to have done much better than France or Italy in job creation and economic growth. And what of the situation

today? Surely Britain's latest unemployment figure of only 6.2 per cent stands out like a beacon against the levels of 11 and 12 per cent in the leading Continental countries? The answer again is yes and no. Overall unemployment is cer-tainly much higher than in Britain in all Continental countries apart from Denmark, The Netherlands and Luxembourg. But looking more closely at some of the figures suggests why Europe's high unemployment is causing less social distress than might be expected, while Britain's better jobs record is failing to produce political dividends.

To compare the levels of the most politically sensitive form of unemployment: the number of "prime-age" men between 25 and 54 without jobs (see chart).

I have adjusted the officials figures by gender and age-group, last published by the OECD for 1995 by the changes in total unemployment since then. The figures show that on the Continent much of the unemployment is concentrated among women and young orkers, who jobless rates of 20 per cent or more. But prime-age male workers have generally been protected from the worst of the unemployment. In Britain, by contrast, the male unemployment rate is 8.5 per cent, against only 3.3 per cent for women, and youth unemployment is much lower than on the Continent. The upshot is that men between 25 and 54 years of age are almost as likely to be unemployed in Britain as they are in Germany, while in Italy "prime-age" men probably enjoy a somewhat lower unemloyment rate than in Britain.

These figures do not imply that Britain ought to adopt the Continental approach of protecting the jobs of entrenched male workers at the expense of women and the young. Neither do they refute the Tory claim that Europe would gain by copying Britain's more deregulated and flexible approach to markets and jobs. They do, however, suggest why many people in Britain still look with envy at Europe - even if in theory Europe does not work.

Custodian deal highlights global trend

Robert Miller assesses the implications of a new bank with £250bn of assets

bank opens its doors for business on Monday with a not inconsiderable £250 billion worth of

assets to manage.
The Royal Bank of Scotland's Trust Bank is one of a new breed of banks that completes a vital link in the ly protects the assets of tens of millions of investors in pension schemes, personal equity plans (Peps), unit and investment trusts, life funds and private client portfolios.

More than El trillion worth of assets worldwide are held on behalf of investors and the Securities and Investments Board, the most senior City watchdog. headed by Sir Andrew Large, has estimated that the top ten custodian banks in the UK alone hold domestic assets worth £700 billion.

The new RBS Trust Bank. which will today conclude its acquisition of the Custody and Investor Services division of SG Warburg, has got its timing right. The subject matter may appear dry but its importance to the

future safety of pensions investments cannot be understated. Last year the SIB issued new rules for the

custody of as-

sets. The driving force behind the tough new rules, as with the new Pensions Act which begins to bite next month, was in part the Maxwell pension fund losses and the more recent £830 million Barings crash. The day-to-day supervision of the global custodi-ans is mainly in the hands of Imro, the watchdog for fund managers, but also the Securities and Futures Authority. which polices brokers and futures traders. For the first time, global custody of assets has come into the net of the Financial Services Act so in the event of a f or misappropriation of funds the Investors Compensation Scheme is there as a final safety net.

The attraction of buying in a third-party administration service from a custodian, such as RBS, Citibank or Midland, is that the typical fund managers operation has become so complex it is now simpler and more costeffective to use an outside body to look after administration and paperwork. If

proof were needed that ad costly in financial and reputational terms one only has to look at the long list of fines handed down by the City authorities for such rule breaches, which more often than not involve Peps.

Gordon Lindsay, managing director of RBS Trust Bank, maintains that the duties of global custodians are onerous. "Our number one priority is to provide a secure service." he says. "The manager makes the decision to buy or sell a share and we do the rest. We ensure, where appropriate, that the correct number of share certificates are held and in the right name. When dividends are due we make sure that the right amount is paid to the right client account on time. If an investor has changed address or bank that too is entered on

our system." The new global custody standards have also been 'fine-tuned" to take account of the introduction of Crest, the new electronic share settlememt system. Certain items, how

ever, will not 6 Our be covered by number one dogs' rules on the safe custopriority is to dy of assets. These include provide a secure safe-deposit boxes conservice 9 taining so-

called noninvestments such as diamonds, cash, property deeds or gold. Nevertheless, says Mr Lindsay, such items may be covered if they are held by an authorised custodian who also looks after securities.

The City watchdogs have warned custodians that identification and periodic checking of customers' investments will be carried out" and possibly without prior warning. There bas also been criticism from some fund managers that the new standards being another costly exercise in regulation. As the SIB has said: "In the SIB's judgement, as these standards reflect existing good prac-tice, the additional costs of compliance are not likely to be significant."

With political parties laying emphasis on greater provision for retirement and long-term care, it does not seem unreasonable that part of that cost should go towards safeguarding assets.

US jeans firm finds seat in London

uess? Inc. American purveyors of pricey denim sportswear, will Lois Letts finds out why an American retailer has chosen Britain as a base for its European expansion open a store in Brompton Road today. The first London Guess? shop will be followed by a second in New Bond Street this



A Guess? campaign is credited with launching the career of Claudia Schiffer

e jeans have not been sold in Britain until now.

European expansion is being funded by the public offering. last August, of 16 per cent of the company's stock. Although this raised \$140 million for the business, the launch was not a success. Facing a soft market the Marcianos were forced to reduce the number of shares on offer from 9.2 million to seven million, while the share price was cut from \$23 to \$18. It has now slumped to \$11.

However, money managers in the US are not unduly worried. Guess? Inc's turnover was \$551 million last year, with a

net income of \$54.4 million, exceeding analysts' predictions. observers consider Many Guess? shares to be inexpensive in light of the company's sales and earnings, and are confident that the big drive overseas will filter through to profits in 1998. Paul Marciano is sanguine about the expenence of the flotation: "The entire sector is in disfavour by Wall Street at the moment because the fashion industry is seen as volatile. Donna Karan and Calvin Klein have also suffered." Brompton Road will be the

first British store to stock the entire Guess? collection, ranging from evewear and watches to stretch leans and a soft brown leather jacket retailing for about £500. The launch party at the Work Studios in Parsons Green will be attended by Paul Marciano and by Bella Freud and Ben de Lisi, the designers, and Yasmin Le Bon, the model. The jeans will be manufactured by Maco Apparel S.r.L, a joint venture with Fingen Group, of Florence. But they will continue to be designed in Los Angeles under the eye of Maurice Marciano, the company chairman. Guess? has attracted criti-

cism in the past for its raunchy, some felt sexist, advertising campaigns which launched the likes of Claudia Schiffer, the supermodel. This spring's advertisements featuring Lactitia Casta, a French teenager, are relatively free of innuendo. "We want to reflect what the young generation is feeling today. It's all about friendship, self-confidence and feeling good about themselves," said Maurice Marriano.



Laing gives warning on Labour's windfall tax

By Christine Buckley, industrial correspondent

ONE OF Britain's largest construction groups yesterday issued a warning that Labour's proposed windfall tax could stifle recovery in the huilding trade, should the party come to power.
The attack by John Laing is

one of the first to be made on Labour's key tax-raising plan from a business outside the utilities. Sir Martin Laing. chairman, said that it was important that the sustained growth being seen in construction should not be "stifled by a hiatus in government decision-making after the election or by policies that could adversely affect the capital expenditure programmes of the utilities sector"

A company spokesman said that a one-year hit on spending could have a worse impact than the recent recession.

Utilities companies are some of the biggest spenders on construction and John Laing is concerned that they would shelve large projects if forced to pay a windtall tax expected to raise E3 billion.

With Labour sources indicating an ever widening net of companies that could be affected by the tax concern is expected to deepen in the

construction industry.
Sir Martin said: The utilities sector is one of the drivers. of growth in the construction sector and it is important that: policy changes do not adverse-

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

MORE jobs may be lost at

Rugby Group, the cement

maker, joinery and building

which includes large opera-

ly affect the capital expenditure programmes of clients." The company's research estimates that the broad range of unlines, including rail.

telecoms and airports along with the water, electricity and gas companies, spend £10 billion a year on capital projects. Although not all of that is spent on new building. it compares with the annual £28 billion spent on new building across all areas of the construction sector. James Armstrong, finance

director, said he expected leading contractors' groups to lobby Labour over its windfall plans. Although he did not expect a change of heart. groups may lobby for regulatory relaxations so utilities still have spending power. Last year, John Laing lifted

pre-tax profits 21 per cent to 124.5 million. Sales edged 4 per cent higher in the year to December 31 to \$1.25 billion.

The company believes there will be a return to growth in construction of 2 per cent this year, after a fall of 10 per cent over the past six years. The company's order book is 21 per cent up on the year, it added, while the property market was strengthening, with retail at the forefront of the growth.

The dividend, which has been pegged at 9p for four years, was raised to 9.5p for the year. The final payment, due on July 4, was set at 6.5p.

Australia as well the UK.

began last year but has further

to go. according to Peter

Johnson, chief executive. A

month. Then it was predicted



David Kent, left, of SIG AP, and Graham Dewhirst, director at NatWest Ventures

Managers buy SIG outlet

By Paul Durman

SIG. the building materials group, has sold its architectural hardware arm to a management buyout team backed by £82 million of funding arranged by NatWest Ventures. SIG AP, headed by David Kent, chief executive, designs

and distributes hardware for

More jobs under threat in Rugby revamp

that up to 800 of the combined

workforce of John Carr, Rug-

by's existing business, and

Rugby saw pre-tax profits.

John Carr suffered from

Boulton & Paul might go.

windows and doors. Last year the business had sales of £67.2 million, and lifted operating profits to £7.1 million.

NatWest Ventures has made an equity investment of £33 million. NatWest Markets and Midland Bank have provided £39 million of senior debt. A further £10 million of mezzanine finance was pro-

overcapacity in the sector and

operating profits, before exceptionals, fell 35 per cent on

sales 2 per cent lower. Austra-

lia also proved a difficult

lower. The final dividend.

vided by ABN Amro Cause-way Mezzanine and Mithras Investment Trust.

Graham Dewhirst, director at NatWest Ventures, said:

*Forecasts for the housing market and the domestic economy over the next three years are positive. This is an excellent time for us to invest

payable on May 30, was held

at 2.1p. for an unchanged total

ALAN SUGAR, chairman of

Tottenham Hotspur Football

Club, admitted yesterday that

the club has had a disappoint-

ing season, but claimed that it is close to having a squad

capable of challenging for

Operating costs at the club

rose 13 per cent to £10 million

because of an increase in the playing staff. The company

added that it has renegonated

a number of the players'

contracts to ensure protection

against the Bosman ruling

and that the full impact of this increase in costs would be felt

Tottenham announced a 13 per cent rise in half-year

operating profits to £7.1 million, while overall turnover

also rose 13 per cent to £17.1

The club spent £10.8 million in the first half of the year on new players, including Allan Nielsen and Ramon Vega. Headline profits before tax fell from £10.7 million to £5.00.

from £10.7 million to £6 mil-

lion as a result of the transfer

market expenditure. The club

also made a £2.6 million write-

down on the squad's balance

sheet valuation to take account

of the Bosman ruling.

maior honours.

in future years.

par with Hanson Brick. Ibstock had been forced to sell factories producing 4 per cent of the market demand after it bought Redland by Ian Lang. President of the Rugby was cautious in its Board of Trade, in order that predictions for markets this the deal should avoid a

> and Mergers Commission. There is a final dividend of 1.25p a share, due on July 1. leaving the total unchanged

ed the redevelopment of the

South Stand. allowing corpo-

rate hospitality for up to 2,500 guests per match. Redevelop-ment of the North Stand will

begin during the summer,

which will result in a cut in

capacity in the first part of next

vear. Two new team kits will

also be launched next season.

increased 10 per cent to 0.33p.

payable on April 28. Shares in

the company closed ap down

The interim dividend was

Tottenham profits

dented by transfer

market spending

Ibstock hit by shake-up and low prices

BY CHRISTINE BUCKLEY NDUSTRIAL CORRESPONDENT

A SLUMP in pulp prices and restructuring costs sliced into the pre-tax profits of Ibstock, the brick manufacturer that also runs woodpulp mill and forestry operations in Portugal.

Ibstock, which became one of the UK's top two brick manufacturers when it bought Redland's bricks business last year, reported a fall in 1996 pre-tax profits to £8.2 million from £26.1 million.

The forestry products division, whose earnings are largely determined by pulp prices, incurred a £1.9 million loss compared with a £12.1 million profit in 1995. In addition, there were restructuring costs of £3.9 million for Ibstock's UK brick operations.

The Leicestershire company predicted that pulp prices would continue to be weak during the first half of this year.

After integrating Redland Brick, Ibstock said it was able to achieve annual cost savings of £8 million. Sir Colin Hope, chairman, said he expected the slow improvement in UK construction activity to continue through the year.

Last year, however, the brick market was shaped by poor prices, although a pick-up was delivered by an increase in housebuilding in the second half.

Ibstock described this year as one of consolidation and operating focus after the company's transition in 1996. The purchase of Redland Brick last year gave Ibstock a 31 per cent share of the market, putting it on a

reference to the Monopolies

BUSINESS ROUNDUP

Abbott Mead Vickers soars to a record

ABBOTT MEAD VICKERS, the advertising agency, reported record year-end results but said its growth had nothing to do with the recovery from the recession. Peter Mead, who replaced David Abbott as chairman in January. said the results, showing pre-tax profits 39 per cent ahead at £14.5 million, were thanks to acquisitions, not the economic upturn. The new businesses generated £34.7 million in sales last year, bringing overall sales to £358 million (£287 million).

It won E145 million of new business over the year, including accounts from BT. Prudential and Garwick Express. It was also responsible for the relaunch of Pepsi, which turned its cans blue last Easter. This created business for one of its PR divisions, which painted Concorde blue. Its marketing division delivered a strong performance, making more than 50 per cent of operating profits for the first time. Overall, earnings rose to 24.lp from 18.9p a share. A final dividend of 7.75p, due on June 16, brings the total to 11p.

Burford rises to £15m

BURFORD HOLDINGS, the innovative property group that has spawned no fewer than three demerged companies in Trocadero, Grantchester and Columbus, yesterday reparted a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £15.06 million, from £11.16 million. Net asset value, including the free Grantchester and Columbus shares distributed to shareholders, rose 21 per cent, to 122.9p a share. Earnings from continuing operations rose 7 per cent, to 2.94p a share. There is a final dividend of 1.15p a share, making a total of 2.1p, up 11 per cent.

Barclays in buyback

BARCLAYS BANK yesterday announced that it had completed the first part of its share repurchase programme by buying 3.9 million shares at a price of 1090.2p a share. Since unveiling a 13 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to £2.4 billion on February 26, Barclays has repurchased 20 million ordinary shares at an average price of 1112.55p, paying a total of £200 million. Martin Taylor, chief executive of the bank, has said up to £500 million will be returned to shareholders during the next 12 months.

Sterling slows McBride

THE STRENGTH of sterling hit first-half sales growth at McBride, Europe's largest manufacturer of own-label household products and toiletries, the company revealed yesterday. Translated into sterling, sales were flat in the six months to December 3L At constant exchange rates, sales of core products were up 5.4 per cent. Pre-tax profit was £13.2 million (58 million). Earnings per share were 5.7p (3.7p) and the interim dividend, payable on May 19. is 2.35p (2.25p).

PowerGen buyout

POWERGEN, the second biggest generator, has bought out its joint partner in Kinetica, the gas retailer. In an £18 million deal PowerGen takes full ownership of the business from Conoco and will take on liabilities for expensive take or pay contracts up to £69 million. The liabilities for the contracts will be split equally between PowerGen and Conoco. Kinetica is one of the largest independent gas retailers with about 10 per cent of the industrial and commercial market.

Steel Burrill down 61%

PRE-TAX profit at Steel Burrill Jones, the insurance broker, fell 61 per cent to £2.2 million (£5.7 million) in 1996. the company announced yesterday. It said conditions would continue to be "hostile" this year. Turnover at the retail arm was an improved £21.1 million (£19.6 million), but brokerage and fees in the London market slipped to £18.8 million (£23.3 million). A proposed final dividend of 0.75p will be paid on May 22. making a total of 1.5p (4.5p).

Microvitec declines

MICROVITEC, the international technology group with operations in Britain, Germany and North America, suffered a decline in pre-tax profits to £460,000 (£3.41 million). Although sales rose to £65.2 million (£55.1 million), profits were adversely affected by a reduction in prices of many components. The strong pound also hit export markets. Earnings were 0.21p a share (3.14p). The final dividend is held at 0.45p a share, making a total of 0.875p (0.85p).

Carclo pays £25.6m

CARCLO ENGINEERING is paying E25.6 million for the technical mouldings division of EIS Group, which is concentrating on making equipment for the oil, gas and aerospace industries. The technical mouldings business founded around Davall Moulded Gears and Silleck Mouldings, serves the automotive, electronics and office automation markets. It expects to report a 53 million operating profit on sales of £37 million.

Therapeutic spending

THERAPEUTIC ANTIBODIES, the drug development company whose shares have fallen by a quarter since its flotation in London last July, spent \$9.7 million on research and development last year, 50 per cent more than in 1995. Revenues increased 26 per cent to \$744,000, while ner losses deepened to \$12.75 million (\$9.1 million loss). The company, based in Nashville, finished the year with \$22.5 million in cash and short-term investments.

Keller shows strength

PRE-TAX profits at Keller Group, the international ground engineering company, rose to £12.5 million (£11.2 million), with a strong second-half performance offsetting the adverse impact of severe weather in Europe in the first half. Turnover was 7 per cent higher at £235 million. Activity in Germany has slowed but there is continuing growth in North America. The 3.9p final lifts the total 10 per cent to 5.85p, payable from earnings that rose 19 per cent to 13.9p a share.

Chemicals group lifts profit to £62.5m in difficult environment

Albright eyes emerging markets with a 4.65p final. The shares rose 212p to

BY MARTIN BARROW

The company has complet- Sugar disappointing season

ALBRIGHT & WILSON, the UK speciality chemicals company, is targeting emerging markets in Latin America, China and India for future expansion. Expansion into geographic areas offer-

ing higher growth rates is already under way with investments in Mexico and in joint ventures in the Asia Pacific region. Robin Paul, chief executive, said: "It is to these markets the group will increasingly turn to to generate the growth in revenues from new and existing products."

The company said it had also made

progress in its efforts to enhance competitiveness in traditional areas of operation. although the financial benefit was likely to be masked by the adverse impact of the stronger pound in 1997.

Mr Paul said: "The immediate challenge for management is to seek ways to mitigate the impact of the currency effect to ensure cost and price competitiveness is maintained in the UK business."

Yesterday Albright & Wilson reported a rise in pre-tax profits to £62.5 million from £55 million, which the company said was "a satisfactory result in an environment that has offered little assistance in the various markets in which the group operates". The price of raw materials stabilised, having added £40 million to costs in 1995,

Earnings were 13.9p a share (12.3p). The total dividend is 6.9p a share (6.5p),

In the key phosphates business, which supplies products from soft drinks to washing powders, sales rose 8 per cent to £361 million, including associate companies, but operating profits fell 7.5 per cent to £47 million, with margins down to 13 per cent (15.2 per cent). Mr Paul said phosphates had been affected by special factors, including higher Chinese phosphorus prices and costs and distortions linked to capacity increases and plant refurbishments in England and Mexico.

147p yesterday, although they remain well below the high of 207 1p achieved in

1996. The company was floated on the stock market in 1995 after 17 years as part

of Tenneco Inc. the US industrial group.

materials business, as the reduction in jobs had already before exceptionals, fall 14 per market, given the country's year while issuing a warning sharpest downturn in housing company completes a restrucbeen anticipated after Rugby cent to £62.5 million last year. that the strength of sterling turing aimed at cutting costs bought Boulton & Paul, the After exceptionals, the figures for more than 20 years. Operwould affect profits and that and boosting margins. loss-making windows and rose 15 per cent to £52.6 uting profit fell 32 per cent on the long election campaign million (£45.8 million). The reshaping of the group, doors manufacturer, last sales that were 8 per cent would create uncertainty in

PEXCLUSIVE OFFER AND COMPETITION THE TIMES Five kilim stools worth £400 each to be won

imes readers have the chance to win a beautiful kilim stool from Clock House Furniture. The kilims are hand woven in Turkey in a range of traditional colours and designs. Worth £400 each, they can be mounted on a wide choice of leg styles from mahogany finish Queen Ann to modern shapes stained to suit your decor. Clock House Furniture recognised a gap in the market seven years ago and is now making stools to order in any fabric, kilim or needlepoint, including Ottomans. window seats and club

fenders. For a brochure call Nicholas Parry on 01620 861300.



HOW TO ENTER

Phone our hotline 0839 444 546 with your answer to: Where are Clock House kilim stools hand woven? a) Afghanistan b) India c) Turkey

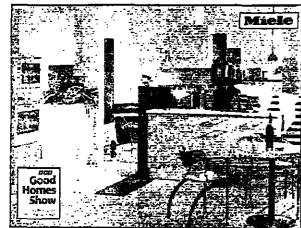


The line is open until midnight tonight. Winners will be chosen at random from all correct entries. Normal TNL rules apply. 0839 calls cost 50p per minute. See tomorrow's Times for a luxury shower.

FREE tickets for the BBC Good Homes Show

Plus a £10,000 Miele fitted kitchen to be won

The Times offers you a FREE ticket, worth at least £7.50, for the first ever BBC Good Homes Show at the National Exhibition Centre, Birmingham, from



April 9-13. Collect three differently numbered tokens and send them, with a stamped sae marked on the front with which day you wish to attend and the application form which will appear again tomorrow. Your name will automatically be entered into a prize draw to win the £10,000 Miele kitchen, left.

Throughout the week there will be live performances in the Lloyds Bank Insurance Direct Celebrity Theatre featuring celebrities from BBC shows. Lady Caroline Wrey will teach you how to dress a window as well as make blinds and accessories, Jocasta Innes who was featured in yesterday's competition, will give away her Paint Magic secrets, and Ann Morris. America's "House Doctor" reveals the secret of selling a home.

Call 0121 767 4000 to pre-book theatre and show admission tickets. (For a Miele brochure call 01235 554488.)

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Kwik-Fit up to speed in new era for investor relations



rue to its rallying call — "You can't get quicker than a Kwik-Fit fitter" — the car repair company yesterday delivered both its results and annual report yesterday, only 20 days after its financial year end.

Shareholders of other companies can only look on with envy. In the middle of the current reporting season, more inves-tors are complaining about the time it takes most companies, regardless of size and diversity of operations, to publish their accounts. Most are now reporting preliminary results for calender 1996, with annual reports unlikely to published for several more weeks.

Tom Farmer, founder and chief executive of Kwik-Fit, claims to have saved the company both time and money by splitting the hard-core figures and Kwik-Fit story into separate documents — one with pictures, the other without Mr Farmer says: "The biggest problems in the past have been delays in printing, trying to Morag Preston takes a look at the changing face of the annual report

incorporate financial information into a big glossy brochure. But do you really need that colour? It should come in the results themselves.

On the basis that the majority of the company's shareholders look only at the balance sheet, the chairman's statement and the operations review, he claims to have saved them the trauma of wading through pages of incomprehensible fig-ures. By publishing its financial results and operations review separately, Kwik-Fit has taken 39 days off the time it took to publish last year's report. It also made considerable savings: last year's report cost around £5.50 per copy to produce, com-pared with today's financial review at £1.80 and operations review at £2.20.

"We're in a new world now." says Mr Farmer, who predicts that it won't be long

before the arrival of the quarterly report. "Because trading patterns are much more erratic, making it more difficult to forecast these days, if there should be a problem, this would be one way of removing

uncertainty and surprises No stranger to surprises is NatWest. The banking group is under scrutiny from shareholders anxious to discover the origins of a £90 million black hole in the interest rate options trading department. Worse still, the "black hole discovery" landed only days before NatWest unveiled its annual results. Ironically, NatWest is at the forefront of the Plain English Campaign, crusading to make its documents not only pleasing to the eye but easier to

"A lot of companies spend a lot of money sending out material to shareholders

without thinking about its effectiveness," says Peter Hammonds, NatWest's company secretary. The bank has saved itself money, he says, by fine-tuning communi-cation links with its 120,000 shareholders. Bardays Bank used its annual report.

published this week, to propose the introduction of a new-long term incentive plan for around 60 key BZW executives. this gives shareholders time to chew over the subject before the bank's annual meeting on April 22. The 165-page report companies still miss the overriding objec-

also laid bare what its directors are paid.

Donald Butcher, president of the UK Shareholders Association, said: "So many tive of an annual report to answer why I should invest, why I should remain as an investor and what they have done to increase shareholder value? Companies

are remarkably slow to come clean on these key issues." Mr Butcher added: "Utility companies missed the opportunity during privatisation to identify with small shareholders as customers, and prevent some of the ill feeling."

In the retail sector, where shareholders are customers, the Body Shop tries to inject some humour into its annual report. After three decades of campaigning for social change, Anita Roddick wrote in the 1995 report under the heading "Chairman's wife's statement". Printed on recycled paper, the report has evolved dramatically to include more colour and off-diary company news since the beauty emporium came to the market in 1984.

Laura Ashley's annual report underwent dramatic overhaul when Ann Iverson took the helm as chief executive. The Texan troubleshooter completely refashioned the 1996 annual report, bringing it to life with a bold floral cover and glossy photographs.

Courtaulds profit depleted by costs of cutting its cloth

By Sarah Cunningham

RE-ORGANISATION at Courtaulds Textiles, which last week announced the closure of two factories in Nottingham, is ahead of plan but paying for it almost wiped out 1996 profits, the company revealed yesterday.

Pre-tax profits in the year to the end of December after exceptional items were £400,000 after exceptional charges. This compares with £36.5 million pre-tax profit in

Exceptional costs of £31.7 million were charged for 1996, covering cost reductions in existing businesses and shifting of manufacturing abroad. The decline in underlying

company, is planning to invest about £60 million on

The company, which sold

its banana business at the

beginning of last year,

wants to make the most of

consumer reliance on con-

sumer foods "free from the

distractions of the banana

industry". Organic growth

will be complemented by

last year and made a pre-tax profit of £17.3 million, com-pared with £10 million a

acquisitions, it said. Geest invested £23 million

growth over two years.

profit to £32.1 million was mainly a result of a fall in earnings in American lace and stretch fabrics. Operating profits in lingerie and hosiery fell £4 million owing to poor trading conditions in France.

Eight businesses have been sold since June, while the Nottingham closures will swell the number of jobs lost by 340. The closures will end Courtaulds's lace production in the UK.

Trading across the group

was stronger in the second half of last year. But over the year as a whole, an underlying profit advance of 31 per cent in the UK was more than offset by the effects of tough market

Geest reveals £60m annual cost savings of be-tween £10 million and £13 million by 1998. recipe for growth Earnings per share were 21.6p before exceptionals, compared with 29.2p a year ago. The company is main-By Sarah Cunningham taining its final dividend at 10.1p. giving a constant fullyear payout of 15.3p. The banana business led to an

exceptional profit of £18.2 final dividend is payable on million. The company has May 16. already bought Vaco, a Bel-Colin Dyer replaced Noel Jervis as head of Courtaulds. gian manufacturer of chilled ready meals, although it Britain's second biggest texplans to proceed with cautiles company, last June. In tion on the Continent until it September, he announced a restructuring of the business has assessed potential that he said would cost up to

Earnings rose 16.2p (9.6p) £35 million. a share before exceptionals. Geest will pay a final divi-Yesterday, he said: "The company's decisive actions dend of 4.7p (4.4p), on July I, which gives a total 8.4p produced an improved result in the second half, with pre-(8.1p). The final dividend is exceptional profit before tax payable on July 1. slightly ahead of that achieved in the previous year."



QMH executives Andrew Coppel, left, Andrew Le Poidevin and Michael Cairns now aim to improve margins

QMH back in the black as net debt falls

QUEENS MOAT HOUSES, the debt-laden hotel group. returned to profit last year and predicted that it could boost margins significantly in 1997.

QMH yesterday reported full-year profits, excluding tax, of £4.6 million, compared with a loss of £2.5 million in 1995. Operating profit from continuing businesses rose 25 per cent to £55 million.

Net borrowings were duced from El billion to E842 million after the sale of a number of properties last vear. Debt has been reduced further since the year end with the sale of 25 hotels for £92 million. The company said it now has only one hotel on the market

Profits from the UK hotels increased 11.7 per cent to £33.5 million. Like-for-like occupancy rates increased 2 per-centage points to 71.2 per cent while average room rates increased 8.6 per cent to E48.02. QMH is aiming to develop its bar, restaurant and fitness concepts to im-

In Germany operating profits quadrupled to £4.4 million after improved cost control. But occupany rates were flat at 60.3 per cent while room

The Dutch hotels increased profits 23 per cent to £12.1 million, with rises in both occupancy levels and room rates. Improved cost control also helped the French hotel portfolio to break even, compared with a loss of £700,000 in 1995, although occupancy and rates declined again. The Belgian hotels slipped to an operating loss of E300,000

the previous year.

QMH added that trading remained strong and rates and occupancy were improving. But the company said the rise of sterling and postelection interest rate rises could have a negative impact on profits.

T&N buys Metal Leve for \$54m

T&N, the UK automotive million in cash and assuming components company, is acquiring Metal Leve Inc., an American manufacturer of articulated pistons for diesel engines used mainly in heavy duty trucks, for a total of \$54 million (Martin Barrow

The company is paying \$46 about 350 people.

debts of \$8 million. Metal Leve has manufactur-

ing facilities in South Carolina and a technical centre in Michigan. It is currently owned by Metal Leve SA, the Brazilian bearing and piston manufacturer, and employs

ed profits of \$4.1 million before interest and tax on sales of \$63 million. The company's net assets are approximately \$33

In 1996 the business report-

The acquisition is subject to approval by the Federal Trade Commission, which is expected by early May.

Purchases help IAWS to Ir£6m

Good contributions from acquisitions and steady trade in all divisions boosted interim pre-tax profits at IAWS, the Irish agri-food company, by

27 per cent to Ir£6.1 million. Sales in the six months to January 31 grew 10 per cent to 1r£270 million. The group owns the Shamrock Foods distribution network and has fertiliser, animal feed and fish protein operations in the Republic of Ireland and the UK. Earnings per share increased 39 per cent to 3.89p. The company declared an interim dividend of 1.5p., payable on June 23, a rise of 10 per

Restaurant deal

Groupe Chez Gerard, the London restaurant group, has agreed to acquire Grill St Quentin and Brasserie St Quentin, two Knightsbridge restaurants, for £2 million. In 1996 the restaurants earned pre-tax profits of £400,000 on turnover of £2.6 million. Net assets were £600,000 at December 31.

Gardens grow

Country Gardens, the garden centre group with 32 outlets in the South East, reported a rise in 1996 pre-tax profits to £2.27 million, from £1.20 million, on turnover that rose to £34.7 million (£23.5 million). Earnings were 10.7p a share (5p). The dividend is 1.60p (1.38p).

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	(FFt)	1985	55%	1091	571	331	502
France Luxernbourg	(LFr)	9164	51%	5040	2635	1527	2611
	(DFn	778	45%	428	224	130	188
Netherlands	(SFn	809	35%	445	232	135	177
Builtzertand Rest of Europe	(2)	474	n/e	237	118.5	79.04	130
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Irish Life shakes off US slump

conditions in the US and

its main customer, rose 8 per

cent, to £306 million, and there

was good margin recovery.

Courtaulds is Marks & Spen-

cer's leading supplier of linge-

rie, while also supplying the

Colin Dyer, chief executive,

said: "Our immediate objec-

tive is to build profit towards

1995 levels as the first impor-

tant stage towards achieving

our targeted 17 per cent return

on average capital employed."

The operational goals for

this year are to complete the reorganisation. Trading to date has continued in line with

the second half of last year.

Restucturing should result in

High Street retailer with casu-

al wear and furnishings.

Sales to Marks & Spencer,

continental Europe, it said.

FROM EILEEN McCABE
IN DUBLIN

STRONG second-half sales of Irish Life's new range of savings and investment products in the Republic of Ireland helped to offset a sluggish performance in its US operations, the company said as it revealed a 3 per cent increase in annual pre-tax profits to 1rE153 million

The Republic's largest insur-ance company said the new range bursted sales in Ireland by 32 per cent to Ir£36 million in the second half, giving an annual increase of 11 per cent. However, US sales fell 15 per cent over the year, largely because of the downturn in the fixed annuity market. Overall operating profit was up almost per cent to Ir £93 million. Irish Life is currently com-

pleting a Ir £100 million acquisition of Guarantee Reserve, an Illinois life insurance company, which will almost double its US operations. The final dividend of 8.5p

makes a total of 12,05p, up 9.5 per cent, payable on May 23.

prove profit margins. rates fell slightly.

rom a profit of £800,000 in

Suitors queuing up for **Sulzer Medica flotation**

SULZER, the Swiss engineering multinational, has been bombarded with propositions for takeovers, acquisitions, mergers and joint ventures since it announced that its medical division is to be quoted separately in New York and Switzerland.

Fritz Farhni, chief executive,

said Sulzer had received about

two approaches a week. The

Sulzer Medica, which makes heart pacemakers, hip joints and other surgical products. its sales grew II per cent to SFrt.to billion (£500 million) in 1996, but profits were hit by net one off charges of SFr73 million.

Coupled with heavy restructuring costs, this cut the group's net profit by 11 per cent to SFr82 million It forecasts substantial group will float a quarter of improvement this year.



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EuroDrive Holidays offers Times readers two-night weekend or Emid-week breaks in France at a choice of eight specially selected chateaux, plus a return Dover-Calais channel crossing with Stena Line, from only £69 per person.

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Chateau des Tourelles 2*, Le Wast Priendly, welcome atmosphere and superb gastronomic restaurant E69pp (BB) - extra night E30pp. Chatean Couve 3*, Recours sur-Hern 18th century chateau approx. 15 min. drive from Calais, Overlooks

peaceful park and has a wine shop in the Chateau cellars. £78pp (RO) - exira night £30pp. Chateau de la Motte Fencion 3°, Cambrai 19th century chateau situated in 8 acres of wooded park, near the historic town of Cambrai. £78pp (RO) - extra night £29pp.

La Tour du Roy 3*, Vervins en Thierache Former manor house which has welcomed some very famous guests from Henry IV to Francois Mitterand. £80pp (RO) - extra night £30pp. Chateau de la Redoute Hostellerie des Trois Mousquetaries

4. Aire sur-la-Lys Comfortable 19th century chateau set in a wooded park with lake and gardens. £94pp (RO) - extra night £39pp.

Chateau Hesdin-L'Abbe Hotel Clery 3*, Hesdin-L'Abbe

18th century chateau situated amongst rolling Boulonnais hills. £94pp (BB) - extra night £37pp.

19th century chateau set in extensive grounds. £98pp (BB) - extra

Former monastery in quiet parklands, close to the village of Gosnay. £104pp (RO) - extra night £45pp.

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Regina v Gloucestershire County Council and Another, Ex parte Barry Same v Same

Before Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, Lord Steyn, Lord Hoffmann and Lord

|Speeches March 20|

The cost of the arrangements and its resources were a proper consideration for a local authority to take into account in assessing, under section 2(1) of the Chronically Sick and Disabled Persons Act 1970. whether a person had a need and whether it was necessary to make arrangements to meet it.

The House of Lords allowed by a majority (Lord Lloyd and Lord majority (15th 250) and appeal by Gloucestershire County Council from the Court of Appeal (The Times July 12, 1966; [1996] 4 All ER 421) who by a majority (Lord Justice Swinton Thomas and Sir John Balcombe, Lord Justice Hirst dissenting) had allowed an appeal by Mr Michael Barry against part of a decision of the Queen's Bench Divisional Court (Lord Justice McCowan and Mr Justice Waller) (The Times June 21, 1995; (1995) 30 BMLR 20) granting judicial review of decisions of the council to withdraw services under section 2 from Mr Barry but refusing his application for an additional declaration that the council had not been entitled to take account of the resources available to them.

Section 2(1) of the 1970 Act, as amended by section 14(1) of and paragraph 12 of Schedule 2 to the Local Authority Social Services Act 1970, section 272(1) of and Schedule 30 to the Local Government Act 1972 and section 66 of and para-

Before Lord Justice Kennedy, Lord

Justice Millett and Mr Justice

In order to ensure the Motor Insurers' Bureau met the liability

mandatory requirement that it be

served with official evidence of

by way of a copy of the stamped

writ or by a copy of the notice of

The Court of Appeal so stated

when allowing a cross-appeal by

Michael Cambridge on appeal by

the Motor Insurers' Bureau

against an order of Judge

Townend at Blackpool County

The judge had allowed Mr

Cambridge's appeal from a district

precedent of liability on the part of

MIB to satisfy judgment obtained

against an uninsured driver was

Mr Cambridge had been injured

In re C (a Minor) (Medical

A clinic whose primary purpose was to provide treatment for eating

disorders was not "secure accom-

modation" within the meaning of

section 25 of the Children Act 1989;

accordingly that section, which regulated the placement and reten-

tion of minors in secure accom-modation, did not operate to fetter

the court's inherent jurisdiction to

make orders in a child's best interests, and therefore the court

had nower to direct that the child

should be detained as an in-patient

at the clinic for the purposes of

medical treatment, using reason-

Mr Justice Wall so held in the

Family Division in a reserved

able force if necessary.

Court's

treatment:

jurisdiction)

Before Mr Justice Wall

Judgment March 5

judge's decision that the condition

issue of default summons.

Court on July 19, 1996.

of uninsured drivers it was

Budement March III

graph 12 of Schedule 9 and Schedule 10 to the National Health Service and Community Care Act 1990) provides:

Where a local authority having functions under section 29 of the National Assistance Act 1948 are satisfied in the case of any person to whom that section applies who is ordinarily resident in their area that it is necessary in order to meet the needs of that person for that authority to make arrangements for all or any of the following matters [(a) to (h)], then ... it shall be the duty of that authority to

make those arrangements... Mr Patrick Eccles, QC and Mr Christopher Frazer for the council: Mr Nigel Pleming, QC and Mr Steven Kovats for the Secretary of State for Health; Mr Richard Gordon, QC, Mr Alan Maclean and Mr Stephen Cragg for Mr

LORD LLOYD, dissenting, said that Mr Barry was coming up for his eighty second birthday. In 1992 he had been in hospital after a slight stroke. He had also had several heart attacks and could not see well. He lived alone, although two friends called from time time to do things for him. He got around with a walking frame, having fractured his hip some years ago. In September 1992 his needs had

been assessed by the council as Home care to call twice a week for shopping, pension, laundry, clean-ing. Meals on wheels four days a week." The council had arranged to provide those services. In August 1993, after a routine visit. his needs had been assessed as the

Then on September 29, 1994 he had had a letter from the council

ghan, an uninsured driver un-

MIB was joined as second defen-dant and disputed that it had been

given notice in the form prescribed

by clause 5 of the agreement by

thich it agreed to meet the liability

Mr Cambridge's solicitor had

sent a letter to MIB notifying the

bringing of proceedings and enclosing a notice of issue of a

Clause 5 of the Motor Insurers'

Bureau (Compensation of Victims of Uninsured Drivers) Agreement

Department of Transport

liability under Clause 2 . . . unle

(a) notice in writing of the bringing of proceedings is given within seven days after the

commencement of the proceedings — (i) to MIB ... or (ii) to the

insurer. Such notice shall be

accompanied by a copy of the writ. summons or other document initi-

Mr Dermod O'Brien, QC and

Mr James McKeon for MIB: Mr David Stockdale, QC and Mr

judgment handed down in cham-

bers and reported with leave of the

judge when granting an applica-

tion by the local authority for an

order made pursuant to the High

Court's inherent jurisdiction to

detain a child aged 16 in a clinic so

that the child could be treated for

Miss Alison Ball, QC, for the local authority; Mr Roderic Wood,

QC, for the child; Mr David G. P.

Turner for the parents; Mr James

MR JUSTICE WALL said that

the child was suffering from anorexia nervosa and had a hist-

ory of absconding from the clinic.

The local authority did not wish to

apply for a care order for good

Even though the child main-

tained she was in agreement with the treatment she was receiving

Munby, QC, as amicus curiae.

an eating disorder.

ating the proceedings. . . "

fl) MIB shall not incur any

of uninsured drivers.

raced at the issue of proceedings.

regretting that they would no longer be able to provide him with his full needs as assessed. Cleaning and laundry services would be

The reason given was that the money allocated to the council by central government had been reduced by £2.5 million and there was "nowhere near enough to meet demand". The letter had been sympathetic in tone.

Mr Barry, with others, had brought proceedings for judicial review. His case was that his needs were the same as they had always been. Parliament had imposed a duty on the council to do what was necessary to meet them and it was no answer that they were short of money. The council's case was that in assessing his needs they were entitled to have regard to their overali financial resources.

How, his Lordship asked, could resources help to measure the need? It could not have been Parliament's intention that a local authority should be able to say: because we do not have enough resources, we are going to reduce your needs". The needs remained exactly the same. They could not be affected by the authority's inability

Every child needed a new pair of

shoes from time to time. The need was not the less because his parents could not afford them. Not could Parliament have intended that there should be different standards for measuring the needs of the disabled in Bermondsey and n Belgrave Square. His Lordship had read the

evidence relating to the council's resources with something approaching despair. By their Lordships' majority decision the

Bureau must be served with evidence of proceedings

LORD JUSTICE MILLET said

that two points arose on the cross

appeal: First, whether on the proper construction of clause 5(1), the sentence: "Such notice ...

proceedings" was a discrete requirement or part of the con-

His Lordship was satisfied that

it was part of the condition

precedent: it formed part of the

grammatical sense of the whole of

clause 5(1). If not complied with,

The second issue concerned whether the word "shall" was

mandatory and whether notice of

issue of default summons, as in the

present case, was sufficient to

His Lordship agreed that "shall"

The requirements of the con-

dition that "notice must be

accompanied..." therefore meant

it had to be read in the light of its

evident purpose and in conjunc-tion with the rules of the court. The

Power to order detention of child for treatment

and that there was no need for an

order, the clinic was now only

prepared to accept her back under

either a care order or as a ward of

The question was whether the

court, exercising its inherent juris-

diction, had the power to detain a

child aged to in a specified

institution for the purposes of

In In re W (a Minor) (Medical

treatment: Court's jurisdiction)

([1993] Fam 64) was Court of Appeal authority for the propo-sition that the court's powers

under its parens patriae jurisdic-tion were theoretically limitless

and extended to authorising doc-

tors to treat a minor in accordance

Furthermore, two recent cases,

Norfolk and Norwich Healthcare (NHS) Trust v W (1996) 2 FLR 613)

with their clinical judgment.

medical treatment.

was mandatory and that in itself a

notice of issue of default summons

was not an initiating process.

dition precedent.

council had escaped from the impossible position in which they and other authorities had been placed, but he could not help wondering whether they would not be regretting the decision as much as Mr Barry.

The solution lay with the government. The passing of the 1970 Act had been a noble aspiration. Having willed the end, Parliament must be asked to provide the

LORD NICHOLLS said that at first sight Mr Barry's contentions were compelling, but his argument to the effect that his needs had not changed was flawed by a failure to recognise that needs for services could not sensibly be assessed without having some regard to the cost of providing them.

In deciding whether the disability of a particular person dictated a need for assistance, and at what level, some criteria had to be used. One important factor was what constituted an acceptable standard of living. That standard was to be set by the local authority, acting by its social services committ

The cost would be balanced against the benefit and the need for it. In deciding how much weight was to be given to cost some he made about the impact that it would have on the authority. It was of more or less signifi-

cance depending on whether the authority currently had more or less money. Thus, depending on its financial position, the eligibility criteria, setting out the degree of disability that had to exist before help would be provided with laundry, cleaning or whatever, might properly be more or less

manifest purpose was to provide the MIB not only with notice, but also with official proof including

the date issued and the issuing

court. Therefore a copy of an

unstamped writ or notice of issue

In the High Court, proceedings were initiated when a writ was

issued by the court officer stamp-ing it and returning it to the

plaintiff's solicitor. A copy of that

document should be sent to the

In the county court there were

One similar to the High Court

procedure was where the plaintiff's

solicitor prepared and filed a

summons and an order was en-

tered in the court record by an

officer who then returned the original to the plaintiff's solicitor.

The solicitor would then be in

The second procedure was ear-

lier and designed probably for

litigants in person, which left

service to be instigated by the court

officer. The plaintiff filed a request

for issue of default summons

which the court officer issued. The

and Rochdale Healthcare (NHS)

Trust v C ([1997] | FCR 274) had confirmed that the court had

power at common law to authorise

the use of reasonable force if

On the evidence, residence in the

clinic was an essential component

welfare was paramount and it was clearly in her best interests to be

Accordingly, the court had the

power to direct that the clinic should detain her as an in-patient,

using reasonable force if nec-

essary, until she was discharged

by her doctors or the court ordered

If, however, it could be shown

that the clinic was secure accom-

modation within the meaning of

section 25 of the Children Act 1989

the court's inherent jurisdiction

possession of a stamped copy.

would not suffice.

two procedures:

for reading into section 2 of the 1970 Act an implication that in assessing needs cost was to be ignored. He did not believe Parliament had intended that to be the

Lord Steyn agreed with Lord Lloyd. Lord Hoffmann agreed with Lord Nicholls and Lord Clyde.

paragraphs (a) to (h) of section 2(1) of the 1970 Act was so extensive as

to make it unlikely that Parliament

had intended that they might all be

It was not necessary to hold that

cost and resources were always an element in determining the neces-

sity. It was enough for present

purposes to recognise that they might be a proper consideration.

Solicitors: Mr Robert

Wotherspoon, Gloucester, Solici-

tor. Department of Health; Ms

to note, that the plaintiff's solicitor

might have no copy of a stamped

How then was clause 5(1) to be construed where the plaintiff had

adopted that second original form

The condition required MIB to be served with official evidence of

instigation of proceedings, either

by way of a copy of the stamped

writ or by a copy of the notice of issue of default summons. It was

absurd to require a copy of a stamped summons rather than

Thus his Lordship agreed that

the requirement was mandatory.

but his Lordship did not think that

supply of an officially stamped

or official evidence that it had been

issued was required. Thus in the

present case the plaintiff's solic-

nor's letter did comply and the

Lord Justice Kennedy and Mr

Solicitors: Weightmans.

It was well established that

premises not designed as secure accommodation could become so

by virtue of the use to which they

were put but, as the clinic's

primary purpose was the treat-ment of the sick, it was not

"accommodation provided for the

purpose of restricting liberty" and

Even so, careful attention should

be paid to the section 25 criteria so

that rights and safeguards given to a child under that section were

made available in the order and it

was plainly right that any such order should be of limited duration

Solicitors: Mr Christopher

Hinde, Hackney; Bindman & Part-

ners; Goodman Ray; Official

and subject to early review.

section 25 did not operate.

cross-appeal would be allowed.

Either a copy of a stamped writ

writ was essential.

Justice Mance agreed

would be ousted.

summons in his possession.

provided regardless of the cost.

LORD CLYDE said that "necessary" and "needs" were relative sions, admitting a considerable range of meaning. They were not defined in the Act and test was to be applied: what the plaintiff himself knew and not dictionary definitions did not help. what would have been the reason-In deciding whether there was a able layman's state of mind in the necessity to meet the needs of the

individual some criteria had to be provided. In the framing of those criteria the severity of a condition might have to be matched against availability of resources. Such an exercise accorded with renyday domestic experience in relation to things that one did not have. If one's resources were limited one had to need a thing very much before being satisfied that it was necessary to buy it.

It might also be observed that the range of the facilities listed in

barred by sections 11 and 14 of the 1980 Act. Mr Terence Coghlan, QC, for the health authority: Mr Simeon Maskrey, QC and Mr Andrew Buchan for the plaintiff.

LORD JUSTICE BROOKE said that the plaintiff, now aged 67, complained that a negligent di-agnosis made 22 years ago had led to her being detained in a psychiatric hospital from 1975 until 1981, much longer than was necessary, and had had a catastrophic effect

The writ in the action was issued in 1993, 12 years after the plaintiff's dease from hospital. Her charge of professional neglicence was based on failure, once the diagnosis was made, to refer her to a neurologist for further investigations including a brain scan.

The judge found that the plain-

Subjective test for dating knowledge of injury

trict Health Authority Before Lord Justice Nourse, Lord

Justice Brooke and Lord Justice

Fudgment March 13] To establish the date of a plaintiff's knowledge as to the causation of his injury for the purposes of the Limitation Act 1980, a subjective

absence of expert confirmation The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments allowing an appeal by the defendant. North Essex District Health Authority. from the judgment on the trial of a preliminary issue whereby Mr Justice Collins had declared that the claim of the plaintiff, Jose Ann Spargo, for damages for injury caused as a result of mistaken medical diagnosis was not statute

on her life.

In April 1975, having been found wandering about in her nightdress in an emaciated state, she had been compulsorily admitted to hospital. The consultant psychiatrist had diagnosed the plaintiff as suffering from selective brain damage resulting from excessive purging and dieting. It was now common ground that that diagnosis was

knowledge for the purposes of section 11(4) of the 1980 Act until a date not more than three years before she issued her writ so that her action was not statute barred. Section 14(1) provided that ref-

erences to a person's date of knowledge were "references to the date on which he first had knowledge of the following facts - (a) that the injury in question was significant; and (b) that the injury was attributable in whole or in part to the act or omission which is alleged to constitute negligence. . . "

In 1986 the plaintiff had first consulted solicitors with a view to making a claim, not knowing whether she had a case or not. But clearly in her mind at that time all her suffering was attributable to the mistaken diagnosis of organic

But the judge held that for section 14(1) purposes the plaintiff did not have actual knowledge that her sufferings were attributable to the misdiagnosis until 1991 when she received for the first time positive expert psychiatric

Although there was no question in the plaintiff's own mind that her sufferings were attributable to the misdiagnosis, the judge had found that she did not have the requisite knowledge until 1991.

The judge went on to hold that she could not be fixed with constructive knowledge for section 14(3) purposes because she had taken all reasonable steps to obtain expert advice and should not be rejudiced by the long time taken y her solicitor in obtaining it.

On the face of it, therefore, the plaintiff knew in 1986 of her injury and of the causally relevant omission said to constitute negligence and of the possible connection between the two. Why then did the indee find that she did not have the requisite knowledge for the pur-pases of section 14(1)(b)?

He appeared to have been influenced in his approach by Nash v Eli Lilly & Co [[1993] | WLR 782, 795-6) where Lord Justice Purchas had endeavoured to explain the state of mind that had to be attributed to a plaintiff before

condition was capable of being attributed to the act or omission alleged to constitute negligence. but who realised that that belief should be confirmed by an expert before it could be said that he knew that it was, with the person whose firm belief was of sufficient certrainty to justify obtaining advice about making a claim for compensation: "then such belief is knowledge and the limitation period would begin to run".

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The judge had substituted the much tougher test of proof of causation for the much less zigorous test of auributability, in the sense that the identified injury was capable of being attributed to the dentified omission. The test was a subjective one:

what did the plaintiff herself know? It was not an objective test: what would have been the reasonable layman's state of mind in the absence of expert confirmation? Nash was concerned with 18

plaintiffs who had claimed a causal connection between their having taken Opren and their experiencing the unpleasant symptoms from which they suffered. The Court of Appeal was at

pains to say that the person who thought that her condition was capable of being attributed to the drugs she had taken but realised that her belief should be confirmed by a doctor did not have the requisite knowledge. But that was a long way from the

present case where the judge found that the plaintiff was clear in her mind that the connection was there between the misdiagnosis and what she had suffered when she came to her solicitor for advice. In such a case it was not

necessary, nor required by the tatute, for a court to embark on a further inquiry as to whether a rational lay person would have been willing to say that she knew that there was a possible causal and the omission she had identified without first going to a doctor

Lord Justice Nourse and Lord Solicitors: Le Brasseur J. Tickle:

Plaintiff can apply to set aside default judgment

payment from the MIB but it had

taken the point that the sum was

not navable because it had not

been informed, in accordance with

the Motor Insurers' Bureau

(Compensation of Victims of Un-

insured Drivers) Agreement (1988),

be assessed.

Order 9, rule 6 against the first defendant for damages to be O'Neill v O'Brien and Another

Before Lord Woolf, Master of the Rolls, Lerd Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Schiemann

(Judgment March 10) A plaintiff could apply under Order 37, rule 4 of the County Court Rules 1981 to set aside a judgment obtained in default against a defendant

The Court of Appeal so held in dismissing an appeal by the sec-ond defendant, the Motor Insur-Judge Bernstein at Birkenhead County Court on April 30, 1996 to uphold the setting aside by a district judge of a judgment in default obtained by the plaintiff, Michael O'Neill, against the first defendant. Christopher O'Brien. following a road traffic accident.

Order 37, rule 4 of the 1981 Rules provides: "(1) ... the court may, on application or of its own motion. set aside, vary or confirm any judgment entered in a default action pursuant to Order 9, rule 6. Mr Anthony Sevs Llewellyn for the MIB: Mr Nigel Lawrence for the plaintiff; the first defendant did not appear and was not represented.

plaintiff had obtained judgment in

no defence and that, in those

THE MASTER OF THE ROLLS said that in March 1995 the

Under Order 37, rule 4 there was

have the judgment set aside so that they could commence a fresh no requirement that an application to set aside a judgment should be

The plaintiff's solicitors then took the view that the appropriate way of obtaining recovery from the MIB was to apply to the court to

made by a particular party. How-ever, the MIB contended that the judgment was perfectly properly obtained, that the defendant had

assessed. In August 1995 damages were assessed at £10,007.20. ment aside. In his Lordship's judgment. Subsequently, the plaintiff's solicitors had sought to obtain drawn in wide terms to allow a

circumstances, it had not been

appropriate for the court to set the

plaintiff or the court to set aside a udgment if it was appropriate to do so. It was true that the rule would normally be relied on by a defendant but it was not confined to applications by defendants.

If the present judgment was not set aside there would undoubtedly be an argument whether the MIB was under any liability. Further. the MIB had been deprived of making any representations on the

assessment of damages.
It was in everybody's interest and certainly in the interests of justice that the judgment should be set aside so that a needless disoute of a technical nature should be

Lord Justice Simon Brown and Lord Justice Schiemann agreed.

Solicitors: Lace Mawer. Liverpool; Michael W. Halsall, Newton-le-Willows.

LEGAL & PUBLIC NOTICES

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LEGAL NOTICES struction has 1996 states: And shall issue a code on standard and practice of registered protections, the options of the code dault heap the code of the same and transport to the considers in the code of t APPLICATION FOR NEW LICENCE. TO: ALL WHOM IT MAY CONCERN. I, MARK WINTER Who has added to the unit six woman. by the Board (and may provide a copy free of change whenever it counties a appropriate). 3. At its meeting on 14 March 1997 the Board that hefore it a drait document earthed 'Archiver 1997 the Board had hefore it a drait document earthed 'Archiver 1997 the Board had hefore it a drait of comment earthed 'Archiver 1997 the Code') which is a drait of the document reduced to in Section 725(1) of the Act. The Board then discoved that there be consultation in specified in section 1921, it specified in section 1921, it specified as section 1921, it specified to section 1921, it specified to section 1921, it specified to section 1921, it is strong the section 1921, it is section 1921 THE WAGON WHEEL LIMITED NOTICE is hereby given pursuant to Section 175 of the Companies Act that on the 19th day of March 1997 the above named Company approved a payment of forty-two thousand five hundred and above pounds (642,660,00) out of capital for the purpose of purchasing 500 of its own abases; that the Struttory Dedization of the Directures and the Auditors' Espect regulated by Section 173 of the Companies Act 1985 are available for impaction at the Company's registered 1985 are available for impaction at the Company's registered office, being 33 Marchet Flace, Willenball, West Midlands WV13 2AA; and that any creditor of 13

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2AA; and that any creditor of the Company news a my time within the five weeks immediately following the aforementhood date apply to the Communication of th

Title request must be within limit

Urban Manor Ltd v Sadiq Before Lord Justice Staughton, Lord Justice Roch and Lord Justice Morritt

(Judgment February 20) On a sale of registered land, where

the vendor was not the registered proprietor and where the contract was subject to the National Conditions of Sale (20th edition), the purchaser's request that the vendor make title under section 11005 of the Land Registration Act 1925 had to be made, at the latest, within the time limited by con-dition 9 for the purchaser's observations on replies to his requisitions on title. The purchaser was not entitled to wait until the day fixed for completion before making the request.

The Court of Appeal so held in reserved judgments, dismissing an appeal by Mohammed Sadiq, the irchaser, against the decision of Mr John Martin, QC, sitting as a deputy judge of the Chancery Division on December 21, 1995, that a contract for the sale of land by the vendor, Urban Manor Ltd. to the purchaser, had been effectively rescinded and that the vendor was entitled to forfeit the

Section 110 of the Land Registration Act 1925 provides:

"On a sale or other disposition of registered land to a purchaser other than a lessee or chargee . . . (5) Where the vendor is not himself registered as proprietor of the land ... he shall at the request of the purchaser and at his own expense. and notwithstanding any stipula tion to the contrary, either procure the registration of himself as

proprietor of the land ... or procure a disposition from the proprietor to the purchaser... Mr John Norman for the purchaser; Mr Gordon Nurse for the vendor. LORD JUSTICE MORRITT

said that the judge was right to construe "stipulation to the con-

made. There was no reason why Par-liament should have intended that

embracing a limitation on the time within which the request might be

a purchaser to whom subsisting entries on the register had been furnished pursuant to section 110(1), should be entitled to wait until the day fixed for completion before requesting the vendor to make title in one of the ways provided by subsection (5). The application of condition 9 of

have the opposite or contrary effect for it permitted the request to be made and the obligation to arise in accordance with its terms at any time up to the specified period after the time for the purchaser's observations on the vendor's answers to the purchaser's requi-

That period was one which gave a real opportunity to a purchaser to make the request in the light of all the relevant information to be provided to him pursuant to subsections (I) to (4).

Lee v Olaneastle (unreported, Mr Justice Millett, ChD. July 8, 1987) was distinguishable. There was no suggestion there that the title of the defendant had been or was deemed to have been accepted by the plaintiff. Accordingly, the question whether section 110(5) precluded a stipulation which required the request to be made before the acceptance of title did not arise.

Nevertheless, the "outstanding obligations" of a vendor for the purpose of condition 22 did not include an obligation to complete as provided for in section 110(5) when no request to that effect had been made by the purchaser. Lord Justice Roch agreed and

Lord Justice Staughton delivered a concurring judgment. Solicitors: G. H. Gelberg & Co. Islington: Slaters, Finchley.

THE TIMES

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SECTION STATE



THEATRE I

The faces change in Art, but the surprise West End hit of the year is as gripping as ever



■ THEATRE 2

Brian Friel's latest play. Give Me Your Answer, Do!, is unveiled in Dublin, but proves to be not quite vintage





■ MUSIC

Roger Norrington brings his wit and verve to the LPO's Haydn festival, but the crowd stays away



TOMORROW

Caryl Churchill's comic hit Cloud Nine is revived at the Old Vic read Benedict Nightingale's review

THEATRE: A subtle Art continues to impress; but Brian Friel's latest stylish offering loses something in production

Friends in the frame

t began as a play and is becoming a phenome-non. Who would have thought that as wise a comedy as Yasmina Reza's Art would pack out Wyndham's for five months and, after a major change of cast, not just be booking until next October but boasting a box-office advance of £250,000? The current wisdom is that, unless a piece has big stars, soaring helicop-ters or tunes by Lord Lloyd-Webber, it can enjoy only a modest success in the West End. It has taken the French-

Iranian Reza to disprove this.

Recasting has taken some of the decisiveness out of Matthew Warchus's production. but it has added subtlety. Anton Lesser is less wintry than Tom Courtenay as Serge. the dermatologist who spends 200,000 francs on a painting that consists of a white rectangle with half-visible white streaks. David Haig is less hearty than Albert Finney as Marc, the aeronautical engineer who cannot hide his belief that his oldest chum has been diddled by the chic opportunists of the art market. The differences between the two are less inordinate, so it is more credible that they have been and still believe them-

selves close friends. But the big change comes in Yvan, who regards both as his best friends and is regarded by both as wet. For a time, I thought Mark Williams a slightly disappointing substi-tute for Ken Stott, who brought astonishing bravura to what is already one of the modern theatre's great set pieces, a long paean of self-pity in which Yvan evokes the emotional chaos of his impending marriage. But his slower, goofier approach pays off. At the end one realises, as one did not with Stott, that this woebegone pig-in-the-middle has been badly damaged by the fallout from a quarrel that, in its cool, Parisian way, has threatened to go nuclear. Indeed, his performance

Wyndham's

made it clear why Reza mumbled something mildly grace-less about "thinking I had written a tragedy" when she received a best comedy award last year. At the time I thought she had failed to see that the English see good comedy as a more serious, textured business than they do on the Paris boulevards. But, hilarious though it often is, there is more insecurity, fear, unfulfilled need and unresolved pain in

the play than I had realised. That is the answer to the few critics who originally thought Art bland. It always was easier to refute those who found it philistine, especially when the view was expressed as inanely as it was by The Guardian's Richard Gott. Writing from the moral high ground he has long inhabited, he declared that not since "the palmy days of the Third Reich" had people had their prejudices so pandered to than by this "old-style fascist theatre". That wrongly assumed that Reza sides with reactionary Marc. It totally ignored a touching, healing ending. It also misidentified the play's subject.

That subject is not cultural fashion or the vagaries of the art trade but the nature and limitations of friendship. To what extent does caring for someone mean tolerating his taste, his opinions, his ego. his attempts to control you, his changing personality? To what degree must friendship involve evasion, compromise, humility, attempting to cover up emotional fissures when they show themselves? So deftly does Reza raise those and other issues that I am tempted to revise my view of her play. In October I called it a minor classic. Let's change that to classic comedy, period.

> BENEDICT **NIGHTINGALE**



Mark Williams. David Haig and Anton Lesser as Yvan, Marc and Serge, supposed friends whose amity is unexpectedly tested by an abstract painting in Yasmina Reza's Art

A question of literary value

WHEN an aristocrat of literature has delivered his work, which opinions really matter? The ones given by the readers who don't want his novels any more; that of the agent who fired him; or that of a world indifferent to his plight — an inability to finish a five-yearold novel, and his poverty and isolation in a Co Donegal hideaway? Or will the judgment of his worth come from

somewhere else? Tom Connolly (Tom Hickey), the writer at the centre of Brian Friel's Give Me Your Answer, Do! has his questions clear, but cannot decide where best to seek the answers. Ask Daisy, his wife. and you will get a sozzled rant about uncertainty. Ask Garrett, the popular novelist, and you will get the sly answers of a rival. Ask Bridget, the sedated daughter in the padded cell, and you'll get no

answer at all. On the sunny lawn at home. Give Me Your Answer, Do! Abbey, Dublin

Daisy (Catherine Byrne) eases her way into the afternoon with a few gins, and slyly interrogates David Knight (Darragh Kelly), a scavenger of literary archives, snuffling his way through Tom's papers. Forty years of work stretch across the stage works in which the public no

longer has any interest. As ever Friel's stylish patterning of his material is intense. Chekhov crops up early as the guests, Daisy's parents (Aideen O'Kelly and David Kelly). along with Garrett (Des McAleer) and his wife (Frances Tomelty), gather for one last hurrah of an ebbing Irish literary aristocracy. The crucial resonance is with Eliot's tempters in the

Cathedral, as the good Knight offers Tom that which is not his to give the benevolent view of posterity. If the story seems a little

specific, the production is a greater problem. With the very notable exceptions of O'Kelly and David Kelly, the cast were all acting dangerously below par. Byrne had difficulty with dialogue that required close timing. Tom Hickey's mannered performance, too, had grave

Friel's decision to direct has a whiff of hubris about it. A number of verbal skirmishes needed to be far tighter, while visual aspects are undeveloped. Perhaps this is not a Friel to stand alongside Faith Healer, Translations or Dancing at Lughnasa, but without a more precise production it could also look pale next to Molly Sweeney.

ment made by

the conductor,

David Ham-

mond, who also

ne of the strengths of radio is its ability to start a fight, although this need not involve actual fisticuffs. Few people in real life shout at television screens or rip up newspapers in disgust at the views being expressed, however often sitcoms depict them doing so.

But it cannot be that all those I see talking animatedly in cars, alone, are using hands-free telephones. No, I think they are arguing with the radio. For many years, Radio 3 was not the prime provider of material fit to make one burst

a blood vessel. But of late the network has commissioned some excellent documentaries, a genre guaranteed to induce radio rage. Long may this continue. Sounding the Century is

Radio 3's huge project, run-ning until the millennium, aimed at celebrating the present century on a decadeby-decade basis. The pick of the bunch this week was The Sixties: Paperback Writers LUKE CLANCY | (Monday), which attempted to

On the road to a rage

RADIO assess the role of writing in

that decade. Andy Martin, the presenter, sensibly took the position that one did not influence a decade by writing a book during it. The principal 1960s influences came from the previous decade, including the early work of Jack Kerouac and, of course, J.D. Salinger's The Catcher in the Rye, the novel which first defined the word

Saul Bellow and Camille Paglia were among the programme's interviewees. Much as Bellow is interesting (and

induced odd looks and defensive door-locking from fellow motorists as I listened to her in the car. She is one of those infuriating people who cannot define anything except in terms of its death. According to Paglia, the

1960s brought the end of the novel as a significant instrument: "For me the last great moment in the novel was the moment of the Modernist novel - Joyce, Proust, Faulk-ner, Hemingway. After that I think the novel begins to die."

And why was that? "History became too vivid from the Kennedy assassination onwards — events in the real world overtook the novel." This is a classic child-of-the-1960s view: two World Wars could not kill off the novel but one presidential assassination could.

I shouted at the in-car entertainment module (as we children of the 1960s call it) and headed for the nearest

PETER BARNARD

THIS WEEK'S SPECIAL OFFERS

LONDON Lyceum Theatre

really useful composer has been revived, bigger and better than ever — and Theatre Club members can see it for nothing after a three-course meal that costs a mere £32.50 per head. Looked at in another way, your £32.50 seats for Andrew Lloyd Webber and Tim Rice's Jesus Christ Superstar will mean that dinner at the Radisson Edwardian Mounthatten Hotel will be free. Either way, it adds up to one of our more intriguing two-for-one offers. The offer is available for Monday to Thursday evening performances, and also in-cludes a souvenir programme

per couple.

Members wanting to make a night of it can take advantage of our special hotel offer as well. Stay overnight in a Radisson Edwardian Hotel from as little as £35 per person, including full English breakfast. Offer applies March 24 to April 6. Tel 0800 335588 to book for both offers

9

Piccadilly Theatre March 23 (3pm) ONCE again, the celebrated farceur Ray Cooney is inviting Thearre Club members to sit in on his creative process. A rehearsed reading of what is sure to be his next hir. Times Up, will be held before an audience, followed by a general discussion, while Coone makes notes to help him wid

0171-369 1734 The Young Vic TICKETS E4.50 (normally En 50) for Honestly, a maniacal new work told in Hoipolloi Theatre's vivid and highly individual style of visual and physical comedy. Tel 0171-928 6363

his re-writes. Tickets are 65.

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THE TIMES THE musical that launched a

The Cochrane Mar 25-27. Apr 1-2 • TWO tickets for the price of one (normally £8.50) for Black Mime Theatre's Mourning Song, three stories told through physical theatre and live Gospel music. Tel 0171-242 7040

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• ADRIAN HODGES. the writer of the television hit Kavanagh QC, has written a comedy. It's called Life Gres On, and members can save £5 on tickets (normally £10 to £13.50). Tel 01250 465566

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Romantic treatment of a brute

niversity College Op-era's latest exhumation fills yet another gap in our experience of nationalist operatic movements. Drot og Marsk (1878). described as a "song drama" by its composer. Peter Heise (1830-79), is the most significant Danish romantic opera. and proved well worth

The subject matter, based on fact, has a familiar ring. King Erik V was assassinated in 1286 by his Marshal. Stig Andersen, whose wife he had seduced. According to Heise's librenist, Christian Richardt, he was in the habit of seducing more or less everything that moved, including the local charcoal-hurner's daughter. Aase. Add to this his boasting about his exploits as an arsonist, and you come to the opera's main drawback: the proragonist is such a frightful

VERBAL and musical wit fenced together

on Wednesday as Roger Norrington introduced and conducted two of Haydn's

six Paris symphonies in a Haydn Festival

which is seeking to return those works to

the position they commanded in Paris in

the mid-1780s; that of a programme's

It was all the more pity that the Festival

Hall seemed scarcely more than half full.

This was programming and performing perhaps better suited to the Queen

Elizabeth Hall: but the London Philhar-

monic was the band, and this was its

space. Norrington's relaxed and delt

verbal sketches of what constitutes classi-

cal style, to say nothing of his five

strategies for releasing the wit in Haydn.

did draw the scattered audience in, and

concentrated attention on many details in

For the Symphony No 82 (The Bear).

Norrington showed us Haydn as bump-

kin, removed from the misty burderland

of rustic Austro-Hungary to the sophisti-

cation of Paris, and teasing both himself

and his audience in the process. Cannily

observed note lengths and accents made

the evening's superbly focused playing

central attraction, not mere fillers

bounder that you someone to stick a knife in him. The work is not rich in dramatic

conflict. Heise's musi-

cal language is a touch conservative for its day: Beethoven and Weber are obvious influences — the latter especially on the instrumentation — and the harmonies are cheerfully diatonic, taking little note of what Wagner had been up to in the meantime. There are good tunes, in particular for Aase, and one or two scenes that can't fail: the Marshal's public denunciation of the King in council, and the subsequent conspirators' chorus. A sense of shortwindedness in Heise's easily conversational word-setting style - good ideas peter out before they need to - may be

OPERA

King and Marshal Bloomsbury

supplied the English translation. It's a pleasing opera which one would be happy to catch on a weekend in Copenhagen, but not as trail-blazing as what was happening in Bohemia, Poland or Russia at that time.

Hammond conducted Monday's British premiere with proselytising zeal, and there was rude, undisciplined energy in Robert Chevara's production, with cast and chorus in bizarre pick-'n'-mix cos-

The women get the best music and were the best singers: Helene Wold especially charming in Aase's song and Weberian prayer in the

steadily rising to the dramaticsoprano challenges of the Marshal's guilt-ridden wife. The lyric tenor Julian Jensen was mellifluous as the King's treacherous valet, but someone should whisper to Mark Evans (taking the role of the Marshal) that not every note in an opera needs to be sung double fortissimo. The King himself, baritone-turned-tenor James Hancock, sang with so erratic a sense of pitch as to

the denouement. There are repeat performances tonight and tomorrow for rarity-hunters, but if you want an opera about a Scandinavian monarch being murdered by his girliriend's husband. Un ballo in maschera is on the whole a safer bet.

have one guiltily longing for

RODNEY MILNES

Haydn restored

CONCERT

LPO/Norrington Festival Hall

for a steady, sturdy Vivace opening movement, the first beat of its triple rhythm swingeing into every bar. The famous ursine finale was, by contrast, leatly footed until the trumpets stepped up the already rightening harmonic tension, and a loud timpant roll gave its final triumphant growl.

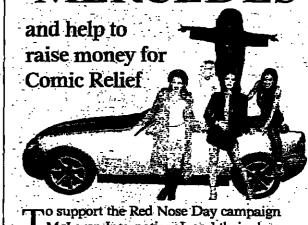
Many a nudge and a wink accompanied the Symphony No 83 (The Hen) as it clucked and pecked its way forward after an opening of dark minor-key para-

graphs and sudden, thudding silences Norrington's long, continuous phrasing and steady pulse of repeated notes maintained extraordinary tension in the long but fleet Andante before a Menuet in which many a muddy double-bass boot was to be glimpsed under the twirling gowns of the upper strings.

Norrington's Haydn Festival is playing Haydn off not only against himself, but also against his great admirer, Benjamin Britten. Neil Jenkins replaced an indisposed John Mark Ainsley to sing the Nocturne, Britten's continuous, trancelike sequence of sleep and poetry. Jenkins is a fine interpreter of Britten, and he gave a lucid, fine-boned performance, missing only that elusive sensuality which lurks behind this strange midsummer night's dream. Norrington possibly miscalculated the balance here: the strings spun an over-fragile thread of allusion, though the seven orchestral soloists - bassoon, harp, horn, timpani, cor anglais, flute and clarinet - worked their own disturbing magic to constantly beguiling effect.

HILARY FINCH

rarely heard these days), it was Paglia who would have COMPETITION THE 經濟 TIMES WIN A £36,000 **MERCEDES**



■ McLaren International, and their close friends the Spice Girls, have linked up with The Times to offer you the chance to win a £36,000 Mercedes SLK. There are runners-up prizes of trips to Edinburgh on Virgin CrossCountry and flights to Paris with Air France. Over five previous Red Nose Days, Comic Relief has raised just over £112m to help projects in Africa and the UK.

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CHANGING TIMES



CHOICE 1

Ian Holm stars as King Lear in a new staging for the National Theatre

VENUE: From tonight at the Cottesloe



■ CHOICE 2

Gemma Jones is the formidable heroine of Mrs Klein

VENUE: From tonight at the Palace, Watford

made him one of Victorian England's most popular painters.
Wellter Art Gallery, William Brown
Street (0151-478 4199). Opens today.
Mon-Set 1-em-Spm, Sun, roon-Spm.

WATFORD: Garmina Jones plays
Melenie Klein, line termideble heroine of
Mirs Klein, Nicholas Wright's exciting
and withy portrait of the famous analyst in
a moment of crists. Directed by linns
Brook, daughter of Peter.
Peteca, Clarendon Road (01923
225671). Previews beigh tonight. Spm.
Opens March 25, 7.45pm. Then MonThurs, 7.45pm. Fri and Ski, 8pm. mels
Wed (April 2), 2.30pm, and Sci (March
29, April 12), 3pm. Until April 12.

LONDON GALLERIES



Stand by your plan

Howdy, miss. Lost your big hair and stetson?

Alan Jackson meets a cowgirl with attitude

one of the businessmen

taking mobile phone calls in the West End hotel bar

can know yet who Mindy

McReady is, but she turns heads all the same. Although dressed down, she still

conveys the impression that she might

In fact she is one of American

country music's most acclaimed new

stars. Last year's debut album 10,000 Angels has now sold more than a million copies, climbing high in the US

pop charts in the process. And thanks to the cheerfully post-ferminist thrust of Guys Do It All The Time, its most

talked-about track, she has helped to underline a new trend in a previously

At 21, the photogenic and charming

McReady is by no means Nashville's youngest emergent star: 14-year-old LeAnn Rimes became the first country

singer to win the Best New Artist award at last month's Grammies. But

it is noteworthy that Rimes's and McReady's propulsion to stardom (and

that of fellow newcomer Deana Carter, whose debut LP Did I Shave My Legs

For This? is a huge success) has

occurred just as interest is waning in

the previously unstoppable "hat acts"

stetson-sporting males such as Garth Brooks, Clint Black and George

Singing cowboys still represent big

business in the C&W heartlands, but it

was the surge of interest shown in

them by urban consumers who influ-

ence the pop charts which made them

across-the-board stars in the early

1990s. Now the interest would seem to

have waned. "That's not surprising

when there are so many alike," says

McReady. "Nashville is seriously into

cloning - an artist is successful on one

label and immediately every other

company rushes to sign a carbon copy.

The public wants inspiration, and how

can you be inspired by some guy when

you know there'll be another ten just

like him along in a minute?"

WELL OVER three hours

later, we drifted out into the

streets, exhausted but exhila-

rated, too. Unwieldy in parts,

Wynton Marsalis's Blood On

The Fields nevertheless re-

so far and one of the handful

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JESSICA LANGE

MAGNIFICENT" NoM

STEPHENS

MOGE

witness this year.

male-dominated genre.



■ POP McReady in participation Nashville has a new star, in the shape of a former waitress from Florida



POP 2 Jazz trumpeter

Wynton Marsalis brings Blood On The Fields, the best work of his career, to London 2

AND AND

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<u>LONDON</u>

LA BAYADERIE: Returns only for Natelia Malearova's re-creation for the Royal Ballet of one of the great Russian ballet classics choreographed by Petipa Royal Opera House, Covert Garden, WC2 (0171-304 4000) Opera terriorow 7.30pm. Then on March 25, 26, 27, 31, April 1, 3, 4 and 10.

CELLO AND PLANO PAID Kirshbaum and Roger Vignoles offer a programme of sonetas by Beethoven, Shostekovich and Hindemith. Bteckbeath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). Sunday,

CLOUID MIME: Tom Carms directs
Caryl Churchd's first (1979) smash int:
sexual politics and colonialism, ser in
the Victorian are and align, in repetitive Old Vic. Waterloo Road, SE1 (0171-928 7616). Opens tonight, 7.30pm. (5)

IGNG LEAR: Ian Holm in the title role, heading a splendid cast (Timothy West as Goucester, Michael Bryant as the Fool) in Richard Eyer's production. National (Cottlesion), South Bank, SE 1 (0171-928 2252). Previews begin tongist, 7m. Opens March 27, 7pm. Then in rep.

SCHUMANN WEEKEND: John Biol Gardiner conducts the Orchestre Revolutionnaire et Romantique in three concerts (tonight, Seturday and Sunday at 7 30pm) exploring the composer's

C BADFINGER: Alter the success of lest year's "Four Comers" season, this year's programme allows a formight's run for each of time plays. Koting off is Wales's Thin Language Theates Co with Semon Heme's surreal nightmere set in a runk shop, directed by Michael Shaon. Dominer Warehouse, Eartham Street, WC2 (0171-369 1732) Mon-Set, 8pm; met Set, 4pm. Until Macrob 2

☐ BIRDY: Northern Exposure actor
Rob Morrow ports Kevin Knight's cast in
Neomi Wellace's lasconating version of
the William Wharton novel: a
psychologically damaged of (Matthew
Watt belleves he is a bad. Or does he?
Comedy, Panton Street, SW1 (0171369 1731). Mon-Set, 8pm; mats Thurs,
3pm, Set, 5pm

[] THE COMIC MYSTERIES John Retallack's calebrated production of Dario Fo's Mistero Buffor New Testament tales delivered in commedia

dell'erte style. Greenwich, Crooms Hill, SE10 (0181-

THE GENERAL FROM AMERICA:

James Lauranson and Corin Redgrave play Arnold and Weshington, heading a line cast in Richard Nelson's play concerned with treaching but only taintly suggesting motives. Ptt. Barbican Certie, EC2 (0171-838 8301). Troubit and sometime, 7,15cm.

8891) Tonight and tomorrow, 7.15pm

THE IMPORTANCE OF BEING OSCAR: The first revival of Michael

SPACE JAM (U): Soorts star Michael

SPACE JAM (I): Sports star Michael Jordan collides with characters from Looney Tunes cartoons. A juvenile mess; director, Joe Pytka. Clepham Pickure House (0171-498 3323) Odeoms; Marthle Arch (0181-315 4216) Swiss Cottage (0181-315 4220 Ritzy (0171-737 2121) Vargin Chelsea (0171-322 5096) Warmer (0171-437 4343

STAR WARS (U). The movie milestone returns, with four extra merules. With

ABCs: Baker Street (0171-635 9772) Tottanham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odeons: Leicester Square (0181-315 4215) Marble Arch (0181-

returns, with rour early and Alec Mark Hamill, Hamson Ford, Alec

315 4216) Ritzy (0171-737 2121)

CURRENT

TROJAN EDDE (15): Urban scamo THE CONTROL OF THE CO

e BOUND (18)* Thriler about two sultry lesbians and a pile of Mob money, with Janneter Tilly and Gina Gerstron. Directed by the Wachowski brothers. ABC Trobenham Court Road (0171-636 6148) Odecos: Kensington (0161-315 4215) Mezzanine (0187-315 4215) Hitzy (0171-737 2121) Virgin Haysamket (0171-639 1527)

◆ THE CRUCIBLE (12): Weighty version of Arthur Miller's play about 17th-

858 7755). Previews begin tonight, 7.45pm. Opens March 25, 7pm.

☐ BIRDY Northern Exposure ac

WEEKEND CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Gillian Maxey

ymphonies and large-scale choral symptomis and interestated leder-cycle", Des Paradies und die Pen. The weekend includes a worksho tomorow (4.45-6pm) and a chamber concert on Sunday (4pm) Bartalcan, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-639 8891). Today-Sunday. ELSEWHERE

Editaburgh The annual Editaburgh Folk Feetfeal begins today with a concert by the Dorden and Savourna Stevenson Tino, with Mary Bergin on whistle, in the Queen's Hall (7 30pm). The ten-day feetheal includes a musical showcase by Culburnia Records and performances by Arcady, the Robert Fish Band and June Tebor. Venues include the Teviot Hell and Travesse Theater. re. **vel bax office (**0131-668 2019).

LIVERPOOL: An exhibition of more then 68 oil paintings and 15 drawings and watercolours by Str. Leumence Alone-Tadeums, whose surfix visions of ancient Rome, Pompet and Greece

THEATRE GUIDE

leremy Kingston's assessme of theatre showing in London

macLammoir's dramatic begraphy since the men's death in 1975. Pertormed now by Stroot Cellow, dracted by Patrick Gartand. Savey, Strand, WC2 (0171-836 8688). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mets Wed and Sat, 3pm **III IVANOV: Raich Flennes heads a** splendid cast that includes hainer Water and Oliver Ford Davies, in Jonathan Kent's excellent production of Chieshov's first produced play Alegelda, Almeda Street, N1 (0771-359 4404), Mon-Sal, 7.30pm; mats Sat, 3pm.

If LIVE & KIDDING Maureen Lorman presents herself for a live-week season of musicology, humourology and many Onchess, Catherine Street, WC2 (0171-494 5075). Mon-Sat, Sprrr, mat Sat, 3pm. Until April 5. unother clog

IN POPCORN: Ben Etron's bistering comedy about movie violence. A Tarantinoesque director gets his comeuppance when a couple of serial killers (great playing by Pranck O'Kane and Dena Davis) blame him for their

misdeeds. Laurence Boswell directs. Apollio, Shattesbury Avene, W1 (0171-484 6070). Now previewing, Bpm. Open April 10, 7pm. Then Mon-Sat, April; mats Wed, 3pm, and Sat, 4pm.

Barbican; Lucie Rie and Hans Coper:
Potters in Persilei (0171-838 4141) ...
British Museum: Ancient Faces:
Murmity Portraits from Romen Egypt
(0171-836 1595) ... Catto: Life
Pissarro (0171-435 6960) ... European
Academtry/Accademte Italians: Losis
Mais (0171-235 0003) ... Leighton
House: Vibrant Epplorators: Modern
and Contemporary Syran Art (0171-602
3316) ... Lieuwellyn Alexander:
Jerenty Barlow (0171-620 1322) ...
National: Young Gainsborough (0171747 2885) ... Sasticht: Flore Ree; Gary
Hume (0171-827 8000) ... Whitechappel: Antachember (0171-522 7888)

mats Wed, 3pm, and Set, 4pm.

| ROMANCE, ROMANCE: Musical double-bit by Burry Harman and Keath Hermann, derived from a Schnitzler hit of love in old Vienna coupled with a modern version set on Long Island. Directed by Steven Deder Gleigurd, Sheftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5085), Mon-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs and Set, 8pm

NI WHO'S AFRAID OF VIRGINIA M WOOLP: Diana Rog and David Suchal in Howard Davids's powerful Almerda production of Albee's searing play. Adwych, WC2 (0171-4-16 6003) Mon-Sat, 7.15pm; mat Sat, 2.15pm; Until Merch 22. LONG RUNNERS

LONG HUNNEHS

☐ Blood Brothers: Phoens: (0171-399
1739). ☐ Bloody: Strend (0171-390
1800). ☐ An Inspector Calls:
Garrick (0171-494 5085). ☐ Jesus
Christ Superster: Lycaum (0171-856
1807). ☐ Joison: Victoria Palace
(0171-834 1317). ☐ Martin Guerre:
Prince Edward (0171-447 5400).

■ Les Misérables: Polace (0171-434
(0009). ☐ Mass Selgon: Drusy Lone
(0171-494 5400). ☐ The Phantom
of the Opera-Her Majosty's (0171-494
5400). ☐ Startight Express: Apolio
Victoria (0171-416 6054)
Ticles intormation supplied by Society Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

CINEMA GUIDE

7WT '8 881 films in London and (where indicated with the symbol Φ) on release across the country

century witchcraft, with Winona Ryder Daniel Day-Lewis and Paul Scotletd Odeona: Kensington (1181-315 424 g (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Swi 737 2121) Virgin Cheises (0171-352 5096) Watermans (0181-568 1176)

THE ENGLISH PATIENT (15): Mapmaking Raiph Fierines amoulders with pession for Kristin Scott Thomas. pesson for Nishan Scott (1704) Barthican & (0171-638 8891) Chelsen (0171-351 3742) Chaphann Picture House (0171-498 3323) Curzon West End (0171-399 1722) Gate (0171-727 4043) Odeons: Kensington (0181-315 4214) Marble Arch (0181-315 4216) Series Continue (0191-315 4216) 4_14) manufer (U181-313 4210) Phoenix (0181-863 2233) Plaza (0990-888 990) Renote (0171-837 8402) Richanond (0181-332 0030) Riso (0171-254 6577) Ribay (0171-737 2121) Screen on Baker Street (0171-935 234 667 / Yuzzy (0171-737 2121) Screen on Balter Street (0171-935 2772) Screen on the Green (0171-228 3520) UCI Whiteleys (0360-886 990) Virgin Fulham Roed (0171-370 2636) Virgin Fulham Road (0171-370 2024 Warner West End (0171-437 4343)

◆ FIERCE CREATURES (PG): Broad comedy in an English zoo, from John Cleese and A Fish Called Wands Issem. With Kevin Kline, Jernie Lee Curts Director, Robert Young. Empire (0990-888 990) Virgin Trocadero (2) (0171-434 0031)

Trocadero (g. (0171-434 0031)

• JERRY MAGURRE (15): A sports PR
agent gets a conscience. Enjoyable, if
overlong cornedy, with Oscarnominaled Tom Cruss
Berbican (g. (0171-538 8891)
Clapham Pichure House, Cli71-498
3223 (Spring 1990 888990) Coleons:
Kensingson (0181-315 4214) Marbie
Arch (0181-315 4226) Swiss Collage
(0181-315 4220) UCI Whiteleys (g. (030 888990) Virginas Chelses
1171-352 5000 (Ridham Road (0171-(0171-352 5096) Fulham Road (01 370 2636) Trocadero (0) (0171-434 0031)

in Nazi Germany gets into trouble. Absorbing adaptation of Kurt Vonnegut's novel, with Nick Note. Director, Keth Gordon. Curzon Phoenbr (0171-369 1721) ◆ THE PORTRAIT OF A LADY (12). Jane Campion's rolly elegant adaptation of Henry James, with Noble Kidman as the independent American sucked nilo a marriage in Europe, Lumbere (0171-836 0881) Vinghas Chelses (0171-835 5086) Haystantest (0171-839 1523)

Marsalis has tried his hand at extended composition be-SHINE (12): Child prodigy panist cumples under the strain. Upfilting, often furnry treatment of a true story from Australian director Scotl Hicks. Odeorys: Kansington (0181-315 4216) Switze Cottage (0181-315 4220) Plazza (0181-315 4220) Plazza (0181-315 4220) Plazza (0190 888990) Rilizy (0171-737 2121) Warner (0171-437 4343) fore - most notably with In This House, On This Morning, the long-winded religious suite heard at the Proms a few years ago. Blood On The Fields, an oratorio inspired by American slavery, might easily have fallen into the same

appeal for that potentially wide andience (60 per cent of American C&W buyers are young women) looking for a stylish alternative to rhinestones, big hair and pointy-toed boots. Its video shows McReady bleary-eyed after a night out with the girls, confronting her boyfriend's double standards by telling him, "Get over it honey / Life's a two-way street / Or you won't be a man of mine . . ." This lyric is greeted with whoops of glee from women concertgoers every time she performs it live: hardly groundbreaking polemic, but it does signal progress within a peer group famous for standing by its man.

Traditionally, the image of our-selves we have portrayed through music has been so submissive," says McReady. I don't advocate male hating but I do demand to be treated equally, and I think most females feel that way. Guys Do It All The Time reminds me of the time I let myself be trapped in an abusive relationship. I let someone knock me around, all the while dreaming of being the type of woman portrayed in the song. Finally I found the courage to be her, and I hope that its popularity means that others will feel empowered to be her too."

here do country performers acquire this talent for Oprah-style self-revelation? Certainly not at the media training classes which, McReady assures me, are now a part of every Nashville hopeful's grooming programme. "It's a one-to-one thing with a tutor and most labels put their new artists through it," she says. "But I hated it. And failed it. They want you to be so careful, so manufactured, ultimately so bland. What about putting across a little personality?"

So the former waitress from Fort Myers, Florida, takes it on the chin when the American tabloids ask how she felt at the age of 11 when her parents divorced. Or why her two younger brothers now live with her in a God-given talent but she's missing of the album 10,000 Angels is released by Nashville, not with their mother. Or out on her childhood. For different BNA Records



why she is paying to put them through reasons, so did I - I had the weight of

college.

"No, I don't feel it's turning my life into soap opera," she says. "If you're lucky enough to have a gift that brings you fame and the love of the public, it's your duty to be forthright and honest in

all that you say." McReady says she feels sorry for Rimes, who has two albums in the US Top Ten at a time when her peers are midway through high school. "She has a God-given talent but she's missing

the world on my shoulders at 14. worrying about my brothers and my Mom and running the house when all I wanted to do was twirl my cheerleader's baton or sit in my bedroom experimenting with make-up. LeAnn probably wants to do the same, but she has to worry about flights and itinerar-ies and accounting. I feel bad that anyone so young should be exposed to so much stress, whatever the rewards."

Meanwhile, her hit single has great Boldest swinger in town

trap of mistaking grandiloquence for genuine emotion. Here, though, Marsalis

mains the most accomplished work of the trumpeter's career marshalls his materials with originality, grace and unexof truly significant musical pected humour. In his spare premieres London is likely to drama of two transplanted Africans, Leona and Jesse (sung by Cassandra Wilson and Miles Griffiths) bonded by slavery and love, his libretto sketches a contemporary passion play driven by swing rhythms and austere New

Orleans polyphony. The subject matter normally allows endless opportunities for moralising - temptations

JAZZ Wynton Marsalis

that Marsalis bravely resists. Instead he spurns crude race politics and invokes the transcendent, if soiled, principles of American democracy.

Barbican

For years now, Marsalis has been touted as the next trumpet king, an accolade disputed by the enemies he has made through his proselytising on behalf of the traditionalist canon. What this evening demonstrated, as he stamped and clamped the beat, focusing on conducting rather than playing, is that he is making his greatest contribution as a writer and

arranger. Compared with Duke Ellington, he is not an instinctive melodist. But his sense of structure, intense rhythmicsations, drawing superlative performances from his Lincoln Center Jazz Orchestra.

Tightly disciplined ensemble playing, rather than solo-ing, provided the focal point of most of the dance-like movements. Cassandra Wilson has never sounded better, while Jon Hendricks was in buoyant form in his dual roles as a slave buyer and as Juba, dispenser of folk wisdom.

Marsalis's text does not always avoid bathos, and some of the dramatic clarity is sacrificed in a meandering finale. A good 45 minutes could have been cut from the -work as a whole. But it is a drive and juggling of time measure of the piece's stature signatures are ample compentative still sweeps us along in that it still sweeps us along in the torrent of history.

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Blood On

Ine Fields, the

best work of his

Career to London

POP 3

California's Cake offer an appealing mix of the odd and the diverse on their latest album, Fashion Nugget ...



POP 4

. but Lisa Stansfield, for all her seductive charm, merely treads water on her new album





POP 5

They sound as if they come from somewhere hot, but Santa Cruz are actually the hottest thing in Bristol



POP 6

Hev, hev, we're the wrinklies: the reconstituted Monkees offer a dispiriting night at Wembley Arena

The new buzz on the street is ... Cake

POP ALBUMS: David Sinclair unearths another American band in the Beck, Eels, kind of quirky and rather fab mould

Fashion Nugget (Capricorn/Mercury 532 867

HOT on the heels of Beck and the Eels, Cake is the latest act to offer a welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock. Rejecting the stifling conformity that has beset that misnamed genre since grunge fizzled out, the five-piece group from Sacramento have adopted a more open-ended and offbeat approach and been rewarded by seeing their second album, Fashion Nugget, continuing to hover just outside the American Top 50, six months after its release in that country.

Now it is our turn to savour the various ingredients which make Cake's musical recipe so appealingly different. While incorporating fashionable elements of hip hop and rap, a la the Red Hot Chili Peppers, they nevertheless apply a quaintly old-fashioned approach to their songwriting.

But their unique touch of genius is in integrating the sound of mariachi trumpeter Vince DiFiore. His flourishes lend a delightfully unexpected touch to numbers including the superb hit single, The Distance, and Frank Sinatra, where it sounds for a moment as if Herb Alpert has wandered into an Elvis Costello session.

Their choice of cover versions is similarly unpredictable: a forthright reappraisal of the old Gloria Gaynor anthem. I Will Survive and Willie Nelson's gently ironic Sad Songs and Waltzes. Meanwhile, an alert if somewhat warped sense of humour is threaded through the lyrics of their own numbers, ranging from the country-flavoured She'll Come Back to Me to the stream-of-consciousness funk of

Race Car Ya-Yas. Odd and diverse in both its influences and reach, Fashion Nugget is the kind of album you could ponder to the point of meaninglessness. Better simply to enjoy its cranky yet utterly modern charm for all it is worth.

Compact discs reviewed in The Times can be ordered from the Times Music Shop on 0345-023 498

LISA STANSFIELD Lisa Stansfield

(Arista/BMG 74321458512 £14.49) STUNG, no doubt, by the comparatively poor sales of her lacklustre 1993 album, So Natural, and mindful of the subsequent rise of Brit-soul stars such as Gabrielle and Dina Carroll, Lisa Stansfield has taken great pains to ensure that her fourth album is up to scratch.

Her long-time partner lan Devaney this time shares the production credits with Peter Mokran, whose previous experience with R Kelly, Michael Jackson, Toni Braxton and others ensures that the album is graced with an authentic-sounding American R&B gloss. A selection of tightly scripted love/relationship songs, including a cover of Barry White's Never Never Gonna Give You Up and an ultra-commercial Diane Warren song, I Cried My Last Tear Last Night, is carefully tailored to Stansfield's sultry vocals. And there is the lucky, lastminute bonus of People Hold On (Bootleg Mix), a hit out of the blue for her at the start of the year. It is a seductive package that can hardly fail, but which offers nothing to broaden her range or to challenge the most obvious of expectations.

BEE GEES Still Waters

(Polydor 537 302 £13.99)

THE magic of the Brit Awards was confirmed when the nation awoke last week to find two Bee Gees albums in the Top 10. Still Waters, which joins a greatest hits collection in the chart, is the latest offering from the Gibb brothers who, having been laughably unfashionable even at the height of their fame, are now impervious to the shifting sands of popular taste.

Still singing of fevered emotions and tortured imaginings in falsetto tones that range from a quivering bedside whisper to a noise resembling the alarmed bleating of sheep, they stamp their unmistakable mark on numbers ranging from the slick I Surrender to the sarcharine I Will. The new medallion man lyrics are excruciating -"I'm in love with the child inside." they sing in Obsessions - but otherwise it is an album written and performed to the usual exacting, if hardly exciting, standards.



Cake - (from left) John McCrea, Todd Roper, Greg Brown, Vince DiFiore, Victor Damiani - the latest and very welcome alternative to "alternative" American rock

CHUCK PROPHET

Homemade Blood (Cooking Vinyl COOK 114 £14.99) WHILE new acts, such as Wilco. are rightly acclaimed as saviours of American roots music, it seems that Chuck Prophet, a no less talented performer with similarly traditional instincts, remains forever burdened with the curse of bad

Homemade Blood is the fourth album of a solo career that has

proceeded in fits and starts since before the dissolution of Prophet's esque title track, rub shoulders former band, Green On Red, in 1991. A collection of lovingly crafted, rough-edged songs, steeped in an earthy cocktail of country, blues and Rolling Stonesish rock'n'roll influences, it is a brilliant record of its kind that deserves far wider attention than its limited marketing budget and unfortunate title will enable it to

Great tunes, such as the Dylanwith soulful lyrics and adventurous but never overheated guitar solos. as on the scruffy Ooh Wee, which canters to a mighty finale with the help of a striding riff borrowed from Jimi Hendrix's Hey Joe.

An album surrounded by no great expectations or hype, Homemade Blood is primed instead by pure spirit and plenty of old-

	TOP TEN	ALBUMS
1 (2) 22 (5) 3 (1) 4 (26) 5 (3) 6 (4) 7 (11) 8 (7) 9 (6) 0 (12)	Still Waters Pop Nine Lives Everything Must Go Cosan Drive Tragic Kingdom Very Best of	
opyriakt C	an.	● Figure in brackets denotes last week's postum

Look what Santa's got you for Easter

If you're from Bristol, and your songs are influenced by ghosts, then why not call yourselves Santa Cruz?

ou imagine it would be desolate, this place where Santa Cruz learnt to shiver, coil and break. On hearing them for the first time, and knowing nothing about them, you figure they live in a shack in Spit Junction, Australia, playing plangent songs to uncomprehending locals in shabby bars. Or maybe they're from the wide, broiling Californian deserts, four friends huddled around a radio, picking up John Peel on a long-wave radio, and drinking in crackly, staticridden harmonies like water.

But then, this rending emptiness could equally be down to living on the edge of a broken city, taking bus rides that take you past burnt-out shops and crumbling churches, neglected neighbourhoods and wasteland parks. The scary parts of Boston: the high-rise parts of the West Coast where the Byrds' vocals still echo . . .

But no. All wrong. They're a skateboard shop assistant, a typesetter, a mental-health worker and a bank clerk from Bristol. They believe in being polite and being wasted, being deep and heing pop; and they're rigorously self-educated in Being Hot But Playing It Cool.

Santa Cruz were five years in the planning; they knew the label and producer they wanted before they wrote a note, and their record collection is the sum total of 20thcentury pop genius — John Lee Hooker, My Bloody Valentine, Nick Drake, Sun Records' roster, the Beach

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A STATE OF THE STA

And, on top of all this. their debut single is the most self-assured declaration of intent since the week the Stone Roses a) did some-

thing, and b) it was good. Thirty Degrees Below is the sound of someone holding on to their sanity by a thread, all breaking harmonies. stick-the-kitchen-sink-in chord changes and a desperate sense of claustrophobia.

"Well, the place in which we write and rehearse is rather isolated," Michele Schillace, the drummer, explains. "Scott Haigh-Jerrold, the lead singer's, mum owns a pub on Spike Island: it's a



CAITLIN MORAN

patch of flat mud and grass in the middle of the Severn Estuary. Spike Island is the last place in Britain to carry out public executions - the executioner used to live in the basement of the pub. And there's a very odd vibe there. Sometimes, when it's still and quiet, you can hear someone moving around."

Yeah, the last time I stayed there," Peter Suffivan. the guitarist, says, "I was in bed and I could feel these claw-like hands moving all over my legs. I wasn't really scared, though. Whoever's there isn't evil, just a hit lost," Loss seems to be a big thread running through their album, to be called War Out, due for release later in the year but already shaping

up to be one of those played-

to-death summer albums.

These uneasy melodies

sweetly straddle the blaze of summer sun and the damp musk of evening. Each grasp at joy leaves Santa Cruz's hands bloodied and torn but. equally, every painful thought has the memory of happier times. Forever sounds like the Go-Betweens locked in a cage, being told of all the horror in the world by Tricky, whereas Rocket Man is an almost hippy ode to the joy of walking bareloot in summer, undercut by a guitar-line that squeals like one of John Squire's before

dipping into doubt It's a mesmerising balancing act, redolent of Crowded House's greatest moments and facilitated by the razorsharp ache of Haigh-Jerrold's voice. The fact that he could be good-looking for England won't harm them a hit either.

So how does a band this disparate and desperate get together? Did they all hook up at Melancholists Anonymous? Maybe messages in bottles that washed up at the feet of the right people? Or possibly a series of chance meetings in a local churchyard?

"No." Geoff Gorton (bass) says. "We were in a dodgy indie club in Bristol and I saw this lovely girl with glossy hair sitting on a barstool. As I was very drunk. I went over to introduce myself, and was rather shocked to find the glossy hair was attached to a fella. Sont, I was so surprised I asked him to join the band. It was happy coincidence."

knowing-that-all-happinessis-transient-and-an-illusion coincidence. Thirty Degrees Below is released by MCA Records on

Or rather, a happy-vet-

CONCERTS: Band that never really was makes a comeback that isn't; change of formula is a hit IN A decade which has wir-nessed such unlikely reunions

as those of the Velvet Underground and the Sex Pistols. you can hardly blame the Monkees for getting back together again. Unlike those other acts, the Monkees have no artistic credibility or historical reputation to "betray". They were a made-up group in the first place, a pure, Saturday tea-time entertainment phenomenon with a cultural significance roughly on a par

with that of Sooty and Sweep. But that hardly excuses the many moments of toe-curling embarrassment and intermittent stretches of boredom that were generated by much of this show. It started with a neat "magical" flourish as the four men appeared, seemingly out of thin air, in a shower of sparks. Dressed in blue crushed velvet suits, Davy Jones, 51, Michael Nesmith,

54, Micky Dolenz, 52 and Peter Tork, 53, picked up their instruments and launched into Last Train to Clarksville. It sounded surprisingly good, and for the first half of the show they played and sang entirely unaided, pointedly dispelling one of the most tenacious myths, that they never really mastered their instruments. The inane vaudevillian an-

tics of Alternative Title raised a smile here and there, and a huge cheer went up when they played I'm A Believer which. along with Daydream Believer, was clearly the song most people had come to hear. But the set included too many unfamiliar numbers, both old

South rises again

LAST autumn, anyone who predicted that Texas would have a chart-topping album early in 1997 would have been laughed at. The Glasgow rock outfit had been a hot ticket in 1989, but their return to commercial favour seemed only slightly more likely than one by their contemporaries Then

Jerica or Living In A Box. The speedy renewal of their pop credentials has everything to do with powerful music and little to do with the whims of fashion, even if lead singer Sharleen Spiteri is now all over the style sheets. Pop is the key word, too, as Texas have moved from their traditional American rock habitat to a modern soul environment. Such a ploy produced instant results when Sav What You Want became their biggest ever single in January, teeing up the No I album White on

The comeback hit, delivered rowards the end of an efficient hut rarely inspiring London show, had new and original tans swaying and singing with its elever and cheeky appropriation of a hook from Marvin Gaye's Sexual Healing, One

Blonde.

Empire, W12

of its partners on the new album, Black Eyed Boy, lacked some of the muscle of the recorded version, but was still a topically Tamla update of traditional soul stylings.

Spiteri was sure-voiced throughout, but while the group's on-stage policy of more songs and less frippery is admirable, it can make for a bread-and-butter viewing experience, the only real variation coming when she played an encore, solo at the organ, of Al Green's Tired of Being

Although their inspiration may have moved from the Lone Star State of their name to a Detroit address, they brought some of their old baggage, such as Everyday Now and So-Called Friend. Their first hit, I Don't Want A Lover was noticeably detwanged, Ally McEraline's guitar touches taking it closer to tunk territory.

PAUL SEXTON

Last train to nowhere

The Monkees Wembley Arena Things started to go seriously awry when the session

musicans were smuggled on and the individual members started doing their party pieces. Nesmith provided an achingly dull reading of his only solo hit, Rio, and Tork weighed in with a pub-rock

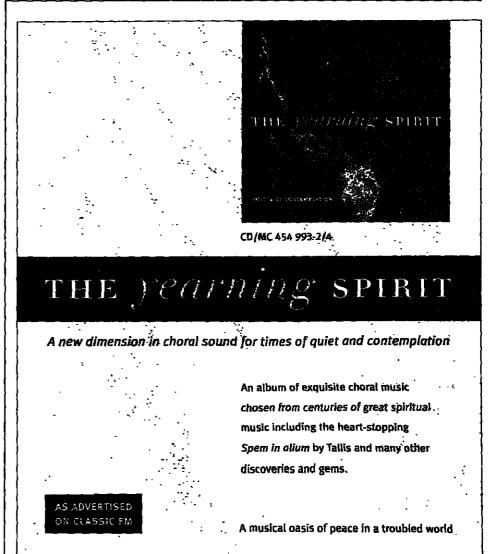
version of Lucille. Dolenz offered a numbingly dreadful rendition of the torch song Since I Fell For You before the diminutive Jones leapt in with a cabaret song-and-dance routine that made Ernie Wise

look like Fred Astaire. The mood of desperately frivolity escalated throughout the second half of the set, which was intercut with clips from the new Monkees TV series, and it

became painfully apparent that gags and routines which might be carefree, ephemeral fun in the hands of a freshfaced gang of youths quickly lapse into naff self-parody when the participants are clearly of an age to know better.

The perfunctory encores of (I'm Not Your) Steppin' Stone and Pleasant Valley Sunday partly redeemed the situation, but the real sadness was that, whatever the aesthetic considerations, the show as a whole had failed to entertain.

DAVID SINCLAIR



EDUCATION

What if your son does not shine?

Hugh Thompson on boys who fail

to achieve at independent schools

There is nothing more exasperating than the child with academic ability and promise who decides to settle for mediocre A levels rather than going for the keys to the best university places.

Although no one argues

that every teenage girl takes to A levels like a duck to water, boys seem to fall behind in the A-level race. Even selective independent schools, with all the motivational support and push at their disposal, report that between 5 and 10 per cent of their sixth form could and

should be doing better. Several reasons are put forward: immaturity, which leads to lack of focus; school being seen as irrelevant; keeping street cred by not trying and there-

fore having an excuse for failing. Some boys Let the with successful school parents can feel inferior if they do the struggle aca-demically. And it nagging has been suggested that the moduand threatening takes some of the

brighter boys' eyes off the ball as they go in for the final months. It is important in these cases that the young man owns the decision to get back into his studies," says Hugh Carson, the head of Malvern College. "Career counselling is often the key. If they can start to focus on what they want to do and what qualifications they need, they can start seeing

the point of working.

There are, of course, those who develop too late to settle down for their A levels. and many of those go on to achieve amazing things. Bowing to the power of not the answer; there has to

be consent." It may be that parents have an unrealistic view of their child's capabilities and their expectations are demotivating. Many young people go on to university only to drop out. Not all children are high-flyers and many who do badly at school have the practical and creative qualities to do well in the "real" world.

Many entrepreneurs are too self-opinionated and individualistic to finish or benefit from school. Last year in a letter to The Times the Headmaster of Ampleforth College. Leo Cham-berlain, said: "An Abbot of what happened in later life to the denizens of the bottom form. He replied that they generally employed the

But what of the parents? Stephen Roberts, the Headmaster of Felsted, says: "I think there should be a good roles. Let the school do the nagging and threatening home must always be a place they can turn to and get support. At sixth-form level, punishments such as taking away sport and social facilities are more effective than giving book tokens and house points. We make them realise that this is not a

holiday camp. Close attention and counselling ways a hard core who will never Most of the problems are early on in the course when they are least mature. Of course dif-

ferent schools

have different selection criteria, traditions and ambitions and are therefore slightly different. Manchester Grammar School prides itself on its position in the premier division where As and Bs at A level are the norm. It is against this standard that underachievement is related. As elsewhere, about 10 per cent of the boys in the sixth form will have to be

urmaster Neil Sheldon says: "Of the 20 or 30 out of a sixth form of 200 who we feel are in only two or three will seriously let themselves down in the end. They are usually disaffected with the school and therefore hard to reach. We target those we feel are slipping and at interview it is made very clear that they must continue to work hard

"We appreciate that there are unprecedented distractions - social lives, sport, sex, part-time jobs — but we get the message across that, especially for the last six months, students must be blinkered; they must concentrate totally on the exams."

Labour's pledge is to give more power to the people

David Blunkett

outlines his party's plans to shake up the Education Department

f we are to make a real difference in our education system, we must have a radical shift in policy and in the way means a shift in content and style so that we have an enabling approach which supports initiative from people on the ground.

We must look at how government departments operate, the services they provide and how they respond to the public. One of our first tasks if elected will be to transform the outlook, culture and ethos of government departments to ensure a clear focus on the real and immediate

needs of the people they serve.

In the Department for Education and Employment, this will mean reviewing how effectively civil servants use their time and talents. This week we indicated that the department would have a minister of Cabinet rank reporting to the Secretary of State to put in place our key employment programmes. This shows the important status which the department will have in a Labour government.

Staff at all levels must be clear about the policies they are being asked to implement - but they must also be in a position to influence decision-making. We know that many civil servants joined the service because of their commitment to public service, and those who should be in direct contact with the public in schools, colleges, training centres. jobcentres, businesss and commerce - must be able to report frankly on what is working and what is not.

Labour is proposing to develop a Standards and Effectiveness Unit and database within the department to enable best practice from schools, Ofsted and LEAs to be spread quickly by using the Internet and other hose who gain insights from visiting schools or attending conferences will be able to make a direct input. Collecting and disseminating best practice will be central.

Technology can also ensure a twoway channel of communication with parents, pupils and students. The possibilities are enormous.

We will also draw in those from outside with the right skills and experience to help us to carry through our programme. Senior staff - as politically neutral civil servants will be expected to speak at, and participate in, major conferences. They will be identifiable and identified with the work of the department. Every civil servant should have the opportunity to contribute. Initiative nity to respond.



PARENTS

"We must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services"



TECHNOLOGY

"Technology can also ensure a two-way channel of communication with parents, pupils. and students"

should be acknowledged and rewarded, with civil servants encouraged to identify unnecessary bureaucracy. Anyone identifying savings by eliminating unnecessary tasks should be helped to reallocate their time and gain appropriate new skills. We must cut the avalanche of paper issued by the department and agencies every We want to reduce red tape for those carrying out policy.

The department should practise what it preaches. Investors in People should be the norm throughout, with training and updating of skills available in a sensible and planned way.

Communications from different directorates and agencies must be coordinated to avoid duplication and overload, and targeted to the appropriate audience. The 1995 efficiency scrutiny into the administrative burdens on schools was a good first step in this direction. I am keen to investigate how we can make greater use of new technology in this area not just to send material out to schools, but to give them the opportu-

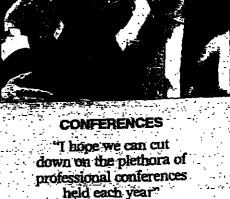
I hope we can cut down on the plethora of professional conferences held each year. I would like to see fewer, more successful forums for discussion - constructive working seminars rather than empty taikingshops: the exchange of professional expertise and experience, rather than the same old speakers reciting to the to listen to the people on the ground departmental procedures to cut down on the number of meetings

onsultation must be genuine. We must move beyond the farcical consultation exercises that have been the hallmark of this Government: support for the flagship measures on extending selection and the unplanned expansion of schools has been around 3 per cent. Equally, we must also look at ways of extending consultation effectively to those who use our education services as well as those who deliver them. The constant change to the national curriculum at a cost to the taxpayer of £744

million - before Sir Ron Dearing. sorted it out is a lesson to us all. The extension of the nursery voucher scheme without waiting to evaluate the pilots has been followed by genuine concern from the select committee and playgroups about reduced parental choice. This refusal same old audiences. I will also review runs the risk of leading to unworkable policies.

It is part of the arrogance of a Government which, after 18 years, still does not understand that it works on behalf of the public and not itself. This is why we need an "enabling government" - putting the machinery of government behind those people on the ground who are taking responsibility for their own lives and initiating their own effective sol-

In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but government which backs those who can create them. This is why we support partnerships with private enterprise, such as the Glasgow Wise group's intermediate labour market





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CREATING JOBS In employment, it will not be government which creates jobs, but

government which backs. those who can create them" approach to job creation and enterprise. The development of our personal job accounts - pilots offering the long-term unemployed useful work, education or support in start-

and directing resources to the needs of the individual. Our proposals will demand a great deal of imagination from all those involved - and much change. The department has already been through enormous upheavals with the amalgamation of education and employment. It is our intention to continue the process of positive change - to enable civil servants to do their job better by being more directly connected with the world beyond Whitehall.

ing a business — depends on break-ing down barriers between gov-

ernment agencies and departments

I am convinced that there will be a warm welcome from civil servants to a reappraisal of their role: facing outwards and relating directly to parents, students and teachers. The author is Shadow Education and

Stephen Gardiner on a pioneering school that encourages pupils to study architecture

A Putney, west consultant an exciting educational idea is being explored. Imaginative proposals for the play-ground have been produced, mainly by seven and eightyear-olds under the supervision of Sue Winn, the deputy head, and with input from the architectural partnership.

It was a simple and very good idea, practical as well as functional. As Sarah Grove, the head teacher, and Ms Winn saw it, here was a playground that was a mere leftover tarmacadam space, an adjunct to the building that partially surrounds it on three sides and a waste of an

This was a pity for another reason — everything else about the school works excep-It was designed by the late

Erno Goldfinger, a wellknown modern architect in his day, and opened in 1950. Brandlehow was recently listed and is conspicuous for its generous internal planning. the quality of its detail, large areas of glass and a combined feeling of strength and lightness. This is catching, Everywhere there is a sense of a happy, creative community. The imagination of the children runs through it with their stunning decorations, paintings, drawings and patterns. But this excellence should

catch on outside as well. While there was much else that needed attending to, they decided to focus only on the playground because it would make an excellent project for the children.

To get this under way, Ms Grove talked to heads of other schools in Wandsworth, and



Pupils at Brandlehow School plan their new playground in a discussion session

Children build for the future

educationally orientated group called ArchEd run by Rob Dark and Ian Horton, two architects who have been working with schoolchildren since 1992.

Why an appreciation of architecture has not been included in the curriculum alongside art has remained a mystery for a long time. Pictures of period buildings, for example, can help to bring a history lesson to life.

Such is not ArchEd's aim, but that is not to say it won't happen in the future for older children. For now, as illustrated by the Brandlehow experiment. Mr Dark and Mr through them heard about an Horton work to increase chil-

dren's knowledge and under-standing of architecture, to give them some idea of what goes into the making of their surroundings so that, they say. children can learn how to enjoy and contribute to the field. To accomplish that is an achievement in itself and ArchEd is the first in the field

to attempt it. The architects say they have never worked with such young children before and were amazed by their imaginative responses.

This could, they believe, be because Ms Grove and Ms Winn had decided that the proposals were to be a real year to show the children how undertaking, not a theoretical an architect would approach

project. In this way it was a venture with a practical purpose, and had the special function of finding a way of separating activities in the playground (some wanted to play football, some played other games) without dividing

This is where imagination came in. The aim was both to improve the space and make it more exciting, an adventure playground, so to speak.

ArchEd visited once a week, mornings only, between November 8 and December 6 last

the problem, to introduce them to the design process, to the use of a scale as a measure, and to the presentation of the design with drawings, perspectives and models.

As a basis to work from, and to have a picture of the area involved, Mr Dark and Mr Horton produced a plan which they called a "bird's-eye view", showing the outline of the playground, the school and its boundaries.

There were photographs of special features which the children had to locate on the plan; and a "brief", the list of possible activities - anything from games to gardening, nature trails and mazes - that might be included. Anything, in fact, to stimulate the imagi-

he project worked on a series of levels. On one it generated the thrill of discovery. On another, there was the practical educational outcome via cross-fertilisation of subjects: measuring the buildings and tree heights brings in maths; the study of types of trees by the shapes of their leaves evokes nature: observation of the characteristics and detail of nearby houses involves drawing and painting; and the story of the school site - the original was bombed during the Second World War - is local

From being immersed in the excitement of beavering about among all this, the children gained the confidence to make the leap from collecting facts to applying them in design. drawings and models.

So far, the scheme has been funded from a government re-generation budget. What is needed now is a further grant to finish the job.

The taste of adventure must not turn sour

many parents will be receiving information from schools about children's activity holidays. Most schools organise some kind of adventurous activity, ranging from treks across the Himalayas to nature walks in the local park.

Schools stress the development aspects of these trips and most parents would concur. However, the risks were highlighted four years ago this week when four students died on what should have been a simple canoeing trip across Lyme Bay in Dorset. After the Lyme Bay disaster there was a public outery.

Investigations revealed that instructors were barely qualified to take themselves on to the sea and that the alarm was raised far too late. Peter Kite, the centre's managing director, was found guilty of manslaughter and served a prison sentence.

The judge hearing the case commented: "Where parents and teachers send their children for activity holidays, the potential for injury or death is too obvious to be left for the inadequate vagaries of selfregulation."

David Jamieson, MP for the Plymouth constituency where the Lyme Bay victims lived, helped to lobby for a new licensing system. Eventually the Government brought in the Activity Centres (Young Persons Safety) Act which allowed for the inspection and

registration of activity centres. Tourism Quality Services in Cardiff won the contract to administer the inspection scheme and are currently pro-

Phil Revell on the measures

taken since the Lyme Bay

tragedy

cessing applications from the thousand or so centres that may need to be licensed. Marcus Baillie is the director of the inspection authority, the Adventurous Activities Licensing Association (AALA). Mr Baillie is an expedition

canoeist with wide experiences of outdoor education, and his appointment reassured many within the industry who had been concerned about a too bureaucratic structure: ut some confusion re-

mains. Not all activities are covered by the legislation, and many centres continue to operate without a licence. Trips abroad are not covered at all. Nor are schools covered for

any adventurous activities that they provide for their pupils. The Consumers Association pressed for schools to be included when the legislation was first considered. Their spokesman says: "All children are entitled to the same level of protection ... the regulations are not going to do the job that parents expect. People are looking for a guarantee that a minimum standard of safety will be met."

Gordonstoun, in Scotland,

turous slant of its curriculum. Students sail and often trek in the Cairngorms. James Thomas, the director of external affairs, says: It is of vital importance that the people who lead these things are as well qualified as they possibly can be, and their qualifications must keep abreast of ongoing

Martin Hudson, who chairs the British Activity Holidays Association, welcomes the new regulations, but says: "Good providers may be unable to obtain licences because they are outside the scope of the Act." The association is so concerned about the possible confusion that it has set up its own independent inspection regime, which will cover cen-

tres operating outside the UK.
The AALA is aware of the
potential for misunderstanding that lies within the regulatory structure. Over the past few months officials have been in discussion with activity providers not at present covered by the regulations with a view to setting up a

voluntary scheme. The Duke of Edinburgh's Award Scheme and the Scout Association have been involved in the discussions, and John Welsh Heron, the AALA spokesman, believes a voluntary scheme could be in opera-

tion before the end of the year. In the meantime, four years after Lyme Bay, parents still do not have a foolproof method of checking the status of an activity holiday provider.

● Parents can check whether cen-tres have been licensed by ringing the Adventure Activities Licensing Authority on 01222 755715.

ARCH 31 PM

POSTS

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to whom applications should be sent not later than 21 April 1997.



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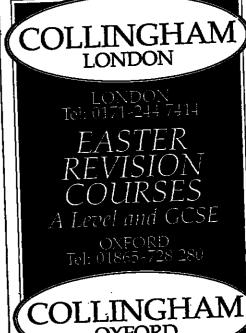
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7,724

THE alchemist in Frankie Dettori transformed an ordinary Doncaster card into something of an occasion yesterday. The Italian's magic rubbed off on his first two mounts, his followers revelling in a near 24-1 double as Dettori picked up where he left off.

Dettori "awareness" gathered momentum well before the stalls snapped open to herald the start of Flat season on turf. On a windswept afternoon, his bronzed features announced a deal raising the Tote's awareness among racegoers. The pool betting chain responded by incorporating a little of Dettori's

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: MITHAK (3.40 Doncaster) Next best: Artful Dane (3.10 Doncaster)

native tongue into its sponsorship of the Brocklesby Stakes.

"Benvenuto", or welcome, bode the Tote - which may well be extending the greeting to its new chairman, who could be revealed today. Dettori, for his part, delivered his own welcome when land-

ing the previous heat.

It needed no imagination to envisage him prevailing in the Back A Winner By Train Handicap. He was riding Miracle Kid, but the horse, trained by John Gosden, proved so superior that Dettori's talismanic qualities were not required. Miracle Kid's victory confirmed reports that John Gosden, who trains the colt, has



They're off for the opening race of the new Turf Flat season at Doncaster yesterday, won by the 13-2 chance Galapino. Photograph: Hugh Routledge

made an early start on the Newmarket gallops. The detail was rammed home an hour later, when Carryon Creek cut down the fancied Yeast in the Sporting Life Doncaster Mile.

Canyon Creek is an interesting

individual. Knee damage restricted him to a solitary outing at Pontefract last season and Sheikh Mohammed's four-year-old was thrown to the wolves here. Yet he responded as only a good one can. travelling strongly before quicken-

ing clear under a considerate ride. His victory was all the more meritorious for his obvious discomfort on the prevailing fast surface. "John [Gosden] has trained the horse very sympathetically,"the sheikh's racing manager, Anthony

horse last year and the plan was to have him ready early to take advantage of easy ground — which he did not have." A son of Mr Prospector out of the smart River Memories, Canyon Creek could

Stroud, said. "He was an unsound easily scale greater peaks in the months ahead.

> Stroud also testified that heavy rains in Dubai had temporarily closed Nad Al Sheba racetrack, where runners for next week's Dubai World Cup have been held

(the mount of Jerry Bailey). Flemensfirth and Luso (Mick Kinane), will represent Sheikh Mohammed's British interests and the sheikh must be hoping a favourable weather forecast becomes reality in the next 48 hours. "It is ironic," Stroud said. "We

could do with some rain over here." Yeast's eclipse by Canyon Creek did nothing to dampen optimism for his stablemate, Alamein, in the Lincoln Handicap tomorrow, Alamein heads Ladbrokes' list at 8-1. but the market move yesterday was for Tumbleweed Ridge, clipped to 10-1 from 14-1. Supporters of the four-year-old - reportedly back to his smart juvenile form - were themselves encouraged when Meehan landed the Brocklesby

Stakes with Blueridge Dancer.
Mark Johnston made no secret of his regard for Fly To The Stars and the colt justified his billing when running away with the Melton Wood Maiden Stakes over a mile. Johnston was sufficiently encouraged to point the colt at one of the

2,000 Guineas trials next month.

This opening fixture at Doncaster perennially promotes a feeling of mild embarrassment in the executive. However, suggestions that the Turf season may commence a week or two after its close in November brought a perplexed response from John Smee, an executive on the British Horseracing Board's race planning committee. There is little racecourse interest in [Flat] Turi racing beyond early November, when the jumpers are out in force," Smee said. No problem: just make sure Dettori turns up on this day in 12 months' time.

- DONCASTER

1.30 Who Nose 2.05 Inchcailloch 2.35 Cretan Gift

3.10 Artful Dane 3,40 Mithak

4.10 COMPATIBILITY (nap) Our Newmarket Correspondent: 2.05 Magic Combination. 3.40 Heritage, 4.10 COMPATIBILITY (nap).

GUIDE TO OUR HACECARD

0-0432 GOOD TRUES 74 (CD,BF,F,G,S) (Mrs. D Robinson) B Hall 9-10-0 ... B West (4) 85 Amountie in latest racet. Going on which horse has even (F — firm, good to firm, hard. 6 — good. 5 — soft, good to soft, heavy). Owner in brackets.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (GOOD IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING

1.30 BAWTRY MAIDEN SELLING STAKES (2-Y-0: £2,511: 5f) (9 runners)

JACKERIM (J Young) B Rothwest 9-0 M Featon
LORD SMITH (Mas M Teversham) W G M Turner 9-0 T Sprake
VALSLASTICHANGE (Mas V Wright) M Teristor 9-0 Roth Trindle
WHO MODE (Vabbuit Racing Lin) B Meaban 9-0 M Teisbust
HOPERULLY (A Morze) M Channon 8-9 T Coann
The NOT SURE (M Benstein (Racing) Lin) J Beny 8-9 G Corter
PRIC TOCKET (J Paylo P Gens 8-9 J F Egen
RACING SURVEYOR (A Binch 8 Co) M W Easterby 8-9 Date Gilson
SEPTING SCOA (Y Nory) K Yory 9-9 Marin Dwyer (3) BETTIME: 3-1 Fm Not Sure. 4-1 Hopefully, 5-1 Lord Smith, With Nose, Plink Ticket, 7-1 Slipping Sode, 6-1 others.

TOOK- HIT OR MISS R-D T Dulon (11-4 but M. Clauson 7 tags

2.05 TOWN MOOR HANDICAP (£5,353: 2m 2f) (10 runners)

BETTING: 9-4 Inchesitoch, 5-1 Norten, 6-1 Magn. Combination, Upper Moura Clay, Invest Wisely, 8-1 others. 1996: SHADIRWAN 5-9-4 T Quinn (10-1) R Abebursi 20 (8)

Men) altitution

1.50 Absolutly Equiname. 2.25 Hatcham Boy. 2.55 Lively Encounter. 3.25 Ryming Cuplet. 4.00 Terao. 4.35 Northern Fleet.

GOING: GOOD TO FIRM (CHASE COURSE), GOOD

(23,176: 3m 110yd) (14 runners)

1 -321 ABSOLUTLY EQUIRABLE 27 (6) M Heaton-Bills 6-11-12

2 2451 KNRO 22 (6) Mrs V Ward 8-11-72

3 1423 REARDY MOMEY CREEK 28 (6) O Sherwood 6-11-12 J Customer 86

4 2257 ABERESONA' 24 (5) PA Mrs 7-11-8

9 Heriery (3) 97

5 0 ARTISTIC PLAN 28 R Ams 5-11-4

10 CHRISTIC PLAN 29 R Ams 5-11-4

10 CHRISTIC PLAN 29 R Ams 5-11-4

10 CHRISTIC PLAN 29 R Ams 5-11-4

11 F R RADACHANS S Sarle 3-11-4

12 GREYMONS S Sarle 3-11-4

13 10' SUPPLINE RESPRICE 29 N Federato T-11-4

14 CLEVERISTIC PLAN 29 R Ams 1-11-4

15 TRADACHANSE PL Mrs (Richards 7-11-4

16 TRADACHANSE PL Mrs (Richards 7-11-4

17 Mrs SUPPLINE RESPRICE 29 (6) B Small 7-11-4

18 Mrs Christian 1-14

19 SUPPLINE RAMBEL R 892 (6) B Small 8-11-4

10 TREMETUR 27 N Henderson 5-10-13

10 A Richards 7-14

10 Mrs Roman 1-14

10 Mrs Supplied R 25 Mrs (19 16) B Small 8-11-4

17 Mrs Mrs Mrs 1-14

18 Mrs Mrs 1-14

19 Mrs Mrs 1-14

19 Mrs Mrs 1-14

10 Mrs 1-14

2.25 BETTERTON NOVICES CHASE (£3,574: 3m) (5)

1 1U2P HATCHAM BOY 41 (CD,6.5) D Michalson 7-11-12 R Jahrson 19 2 4344 AMBER VALLEY 2 (\$) D Williams 6-11-4 Mr S Durack (7) 41 C Maude 4 29PP DECTRA 14 (8) S Earle 7-11-4 C Maude 5 42PP ELTE SINERADA 45 (F,6) N Lampara 8-11-4 Mr L Bahar (7) 81 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 5 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 6 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 6 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 6-11-4 B Powel 7 450 LINTON ROCKS 10 (F,6.5) T Thomson James 1

5-4 Halchern Boy, 7-4 Linton Rocks, 4-1 Amber Valley, 20-1 Dite Governor, 33-1

2.55 SABIN DU LOIR MAIDEN HURDLE

FORM FOCUS

BNCHCALLOCH best En Vacances neck in hand-cap at Neumantel (2m 2L good). NOUFARS 41 2nd to Random Kindiness in conditions race at Wolver-hampion (AW, 2m). MASTER FOODBROOCH heat

Carl Evans: 3.25 Ardbrennan.

(£3,176: 3m 110yd) (14 numers)

1.50 WANTAGE NOVICES HURDLE

THUNDERER

2.35 MANELINE-SOLOCOMB HANDICAP (£6,302: 61) (22 runners) 302: 6f) (22 TUNINERS) (4) 100021- LORD HIGH ADMERAL 174 (C.F.G.S) (Eller Cido) M Heaton-Elle 9-10-0 M Roburts 92 (72) 007-522 BOLD EFFORT 13 IV.D.F.G.S) (IA Richards IX Countingham-Brown 5-9-13 T Dubre 90 (73) 005-12 CRETAN GRF 13 (V.D.F.G.S) (IA Richards IX Countingham-Brown 5-9-13 T Dubre 90 (74) 350030- SRA JOEY 153 (D.F.B.S) (Nrs A G Sanc.) P Murphy 8-9-9. D Harrison 92 (75) 350030- SRA JOEY 153 (D.F.B.S) (Nrs A G Sanc.) P Murphy 8-9-9. D Harrison 92 (76) 680010- CHARLE SULETT 139 (D.F.S.) (R. Dubre 8-9-5-9- M Higs 93 (76) 680010- CHARLE SULETT 139 (D.F.S.) (R. And) J. Berry 7-9-5 G Carter 94 (77) 20000- SRA JOER 153 (D.F.S.) (R. Footbrane 94 (77) 210000- SRA JOER 153 (D.F.S.) (M. Footbrane 95-5 R. Countrare 94 (77) 210000- SRA JOER 153 (D.F.S.) (M. Footbrane 15-9-5 R. Countrare 94 (78) 21133- WEEDMAN'S WIERH 377 (D.F.S.) (E. Westman Luty R. Hollechead 4-9-1 L. Debton 95 (79) 60530-5 DRAWE 21 (CD.F.G.S) (Mrs. A Mariferson) Ms. V Marche 6-8-13 M. Dearing 95 (80) 60530-5 DRAWE 21 (CD.F.G.S) (Mrs. A Mariferson) Ms. V Marche 6-8-13 M. Dearing 96 (90) 60530-5 DRAWE 21 (CD.F.G.S) (Mrs. A Mariferson) Ms. V Marche 6-8-13 M. Dearing 97 (10) 000004-5 LIDNOX LEMS 126 (D.F.) (Mrs. A Maries) A Javas 5-8-12 W.J. O'Connear 94 (11) 2400-53 (JRR A 13 (D.F.G.) (Mrs. L. Marigh) P. Marphy 4-8-6 S. Domme 97 (12) 503-111 MANSAR 37 (D.G.) (Mrs. L. Marigh) P. Marphy 4-8-6 R. Lappin 99 (13) 006000- MSS WATER JMR 136 (D.S.) M. Lawrace; P. Fayes 4-8-4 J. F. Span 95 (14) 11401- MANDRACE 189 (F) (D.S.) M. Lawrace; P. Fayes 4-8-4 J. F. Span 95 (14) 11401- MANDRACE 189 (F) (D.S.) (F.G.) (M. Scale) D. Micholls B-7-13 (ona Wands (7) 98 (18) 6-7-1 Basia, 8-1 Marisso, 10-1 Series Of Promby, Cretan GR, Westman's Weigh, 12-1 (Lord High) BETTING: 7-1 Barsto, 8-1 Marriso, 10-1 Sense Ol Phonity, Cietan GR, Westman's Woods, 12-1 Lord High Admital, Titer, 14-7 others.

FORM FOCUS LORD HIGH ADMIPAL bear Gone Sprage 1141 m 1 2541 3rd oil 13 to Prima Súlt in handicap at Wolving-15-current handicap at Haydock (31, good) with IRRA (11th heiter oil) 51 8th and DAAWE (11th

1996: ANZIO 5-9-0 Pal Eddary (11-1) Mass & Natharay 21 ran

3.10 WORTHINGTON SPRING MILE HANDICAP (£15.790: 1m str) (23 runners) 401 (9) 11203-0 HIGH PREMIUM 79 (CD.9F.F.G) (J Farsons) R Fabry 9-9-10...... A Calliano 91

BETTREC: 8-1 Actual Cone. 9-1 Sandmoor Chambray. 10-1 High Premium, Shinemika, 12-1 Royal Result. Share Shulfle. Treshes. 16-1 others 1998: COOL EDGE 5-9-9 P Robusson (20-1) M Tomptins 21 ran 5 6 COCKPT 254 6 Battering 6-11-9 8 CENTER
6 6-D COMMUNET THE NAT. 20 J Mustims 6-11-9 9 Centers
7 12-3 FORTR BLESSED 128 (S) Miss J Phrman 5-11-9 0 Learly 91
8 5 FATHER HENRY 35 H Heridason 6-17-9 M A Propertial 88
9 4002 FOMES LAD 14 D Inclusions 6-11-9 8 Johnson 96
10 HAPPY HENRY 27P R Alice 7-11-9 Air flowerick —
11 HECH SLIMMER 161F T Theoretic Junes 7-11-9 J Cluby —
12 HOUR HORSE 27 N Regula 6-11-9 Cmfs Webb (2) —
13 G-4P AMPERIAL HOROTES 62 N Lamcord 6-11-9 Cmfs Webb (2) —
14 6528 LIVELY PROCUMETER 13 (S) Mis M Jones 6-11-9 Dends Byrne 88
15 PP PRUND TORY 104 G Rationy 7-11-9 J R Americans 86
16 1543 QUINE AGEL 5-8 (S) M Page 5-11-9 J Anne Exams 86
17 QVO RELIKANDER 21 Mis J Phrman 7-11-9 Brook Byrne 89
18 5/3 RICH TYCODIN 9 F Rich 6-11-9 Research 80
19 2-0 TOM PRICH 13 G Battering 8-11-9 Research 80
10 BROW MARROD 109 M Bostey 7-11-9 L Harvey —
12 32P MARAMAN SWALK 22 N Jerson-Dance 7-11-9 C Limenity 75
2 Eves Blussed 5-1 Lively Encounter 6-1 Forces Lad 7-1 Beath 0f Scandal 8-1

HIGH PREMIUM best effort 5141 on of 12 to South Eastern Fred on handlage at Webnetsampton (AW, Inn 11 79yds) on penultrosta start. SAMDHAGOR CHAMBERSYT 141 Jan of 21 to Mels Baby in handlage ones course and distance (solf) with PROLID MARK 121 this and MAPLE BAY (To better old) 181 1801. ROYAL RESULT about 60 3rd of 13 to Distar on handlage at Reduct (1m, good to firm). NIGHT DANCE best effort 12: 10th of 11 to Highery in handstap at Goodwood (3m. good) on highery in handstap at Goodwood (3m. good) on penutismale start. IMERNEA 77 12th of 21 to Estan Heights in handstap at hiswbury (1m. 21. soll) DUKE VALENTINO heat ethan basi Japane Boy 394 in B-maner claimer at Wolverhampton (AW. 71), Fab 97. Selection: High! PREMIUM. 3.40 P & J FOODS MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-0: £3,688: 1m 2f 60yd) (8 numers) 4 HEPRIASE 177 (Fitiglactore Throughheid Recing Ltd) J Gesden 9-0 . L Destont 8 LE DE LIBRATE (Stempcargo Recing Pennership) R O'Solfhan 9-0 . A Prociser 45 MANUENO 772 (C Barber-Lorriage J Herberton 9-0 . N Manuely 35 MITHAN 216 (Harbor A) Middle 10 Mit 1988 4 ONE FOR BALEYS 134 (S Bater Ltd (Balleys Horse Feeds)) M Johnston 9-0 J Wienwar 8 RANE 7NLEHT (A Mezze) M Creation 9-0 . Paul Echlery 632 SWETWAY 148 (A Whith; K Hong 9-0 . D McConom 7 MAMBUCCA (Lore Howard de Walden) Mrs J Cecil 8-9 K Darley BETTORS: 6-4 Militals, 2-1 Heritage, 5-1 One Fox Ballays, 7-1 Nambusco, 8-1 Rare Taloni, 25-1 Suchway, 33-1996: SUMMER SPELL 9-0 S Sanders (13-2) R Charlon 11 can FORM FOCUS

FORM FOCUS

HERITAGE about 73/4 4th of 11 to Voyagers Quest in maiden at Sacrifford (Im., good to Brm).

MANNLENO 193/4 5th of 6 to Hindsight in suction maden at Hamilton (1m ESyd, good to soft).

SWETHAK 2 3 nd of 17 to Monza in maiden at Newtony (71, good). ONE FOR BALLEYS 61/4 4th of Selection: MSTHAK (map)

4.10 MEXBOROUGH MAIDEN STAKES (3-Y-O: £3,720: 7f) (8 runners)

FORM FOCUS

COMPATIBILITY 13 8th of 13 to Grapushol In maiden at Hommarks (68, good) of firm)
"SLST GRAND best about nock and husel 4th of 10 to Onselus on mouten at Lessater (71, good). TITLE ALERT 44 35 of 15 to Decor in maiden at Salisbury (71, good to soft).

ZARHIR 44: 3rd of 11 to Kurnali in meaden at 15 Selection: ZARETSKI.

COURSE SPECIALISTS Rens % JOCKEYS
21 23.8 D Holland
128 21.1 L Defind
139 18.0 M Holls
79 15.2 S Sanders
37 13.5 W Ryan TRAINERS **JOCKEYS** 45 183 190 38 121

KELSO

THUNDERER 1.40 Son Of Anshan, 2.15 Mr Knitwit, 2.45 Supreme Soviet, 3.15 Son Of Iris, 3.50 Jigtime, 4.20 Derannie, 4.50 Mister Ross. The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 4.20 DERANNIE.

Carl Evans: 3.50 Jigtime. GOING: GOOD

1.40 PERCY ARMS JUVENILE NOVICES HURDLE (\$2,815. 2m 2t) (12 runners) \$22,815. 20m 2f) (12 numers)

1 21F1 SON OF AMSHAN 13 (6.5) Mrs A Swintent 11-10.... J Supple
2 21 CLASH OF SWORDS 2f (6.5) P Calver 11-4 ... L Wyer
3 50 90LD CLASSIC 23 C Grant 10-12... A Dobble
4 3 80LRBON DYNASY 13 6 Febrards 10-12 ... A Dobble
5 CAULART M Barnes 10-12 ... S febror 50
6 00 CHAF CHAPPE 38 W Kerry 10-12 ... S McDougal
7 20 HONEYSCHOOLE 59 (8F) M Harmond 10-12 ... R Garnity
9 MYSTICAL MRND 231F M Water 10-12 ... M Molenny
9 MYSTICAL MRND 231F M Water 10-12 ... A S Smith
10 02 CWESSIAMI 6 L Floqued 16-12 ... P Reper
11 2 AMBOL'S EEM 21 Mrs S Brathume 10-7. ... M Foster
12 0 CHESSIAMI 6 L Floqued 16-12 ... M Michael
13 P MARCH S EEM 21 Mrs S Brathume 10-7. ... M Foster
14 C M March 2 CHAPT C Mrs M Kalligan 10-7 ... M Foster
15 O CHAPT C MRS C M March 2 M Kalligan 10-7 ... B Shorey
1-4 Son Of Marchan 4-1 Case 10 Searchs -2 Owesman, 6-1 others

7-4 Sen Of Anshan, 4-1 Clash Of Swords, 9-2 Oversman, 6-1 others 2.15 TWEEDDALE PRESS HOVICES CHASE (£3,947, 2m 1f) (8)

6-4 sh ruman 3-1 Rest Tona; 6-1 Ampen Johnn, 8-1 others. 2.45 LOTHIAN PLUMBING HANDICAP HURDLE (£2.827 2m 2l) (10)

2.3.27 ZID 21) (10)

1 4111 RIGLETORAN 13 (CD.E.S) 8 Martaggart 8-12-0 ... 8 Storey

2 5196 UNICLE DOLIG 20 (C.G.S) Mrs M Reveley 5-12-0 ... P Moten

5 5242 HAM REGS 23 (F.G.S) M Hammord E-11-8 ... R Sample

4 00P RARAGON NYR 14 (CD.E.S) P Montetin 9-11-8 C MacCommack (7)

1 55 LINHGARE 13 (C.G.S) L Lurayo 6-10-13 ... R Supple

6 1399 ADMANATIC 10 (CD.E.S) R Main 6-10-6 ... L Wyer

2 420 SUPPLEME SOWET 15 A Windlass 7-10-1 ... A Dobban

8 17FF MONMARE FIGHT 20 (E.S.) J Assen 7-10-0 ... J Raillon

10 3300 SOMES FURLES 43 (F.G.) P Chrosbroogh 10-10-1 A S Smills

10 3300 SOMES FURLES 43 (F.G.) P Chrosbroogh 10-10-1 A S Smills

10 3300 SOMES FURLES 43 (F.G.) P Chrosbroogh 10-10-1 A S Smills

9.4 Ingletonian, 9-2 Harm N Eggs, 6-1 Our Robert 7-1 Supreme Sowet, 6-1 others, Wolverhampton's clerk of the course, Ashley Bealby, was yesterday fined £500 by the Jockey Club's disciplinary committee for failing to keep the public informed of the abandonment of racing at Wolverhampton's jumping fixture on Boxing Day last year.

3.15 KING'S OWN SCOTTISH BORDERERS

1 POP3 WHAAT FETTLE 21 (CD.F.S. 5) 6 Richards 12-11-10 A Dobbin 2 SS11 SOM OF RRS 45 (CD.F.S.) Mrs M Review 9-11-5 . . P. Mirem 3 4251 KBLCUGAN 13 (CD.F.S.) Mrs J Goodfellow 10-11-2 . M Bendley 4 246 TRANTER BUDGET 8 (CD.F.S.) Mrs D Saver 10-10-10 M Molnacy 5 P321 COCUI LAME 13 (G.S.) J Dan 10-10-3 D Parlex 5 P321 COQUI LANE 13 (G.S) J Dan 10-10-3 7-4 Son Ol Irls, 3-1 Wheat Fettle, Klicolyan, 5-1 Coqui Case, 10-1 Tighter Budget

3.50 J RUTHERFORD EARLSTON HUNTERS CHASE (Amateurs: £2.211: 3m 4f) (5) 1 2-22 ROYAL JESTER 21 (CD.F.G.S) C Storey 13-12-2. C Storey (5) 2 -163 SOUTHERN MENSTREL 19P (F.G.S) N Completion 14-12-2 Mks C Mantale (7) 3 -454 TARTIAN TORNADO 10 (F.G) Mis P Laws 11-12-2 P Judence (7) 4 11-1 JGTB& 23 (C.G.S) J Hophes P-11-11 — M Bradborne (7) 5 1/11 ORANGE RAGLISA 13P (F.G.S) S Shuley-Beasen 11-11-10 Miss P Robson (5)

4.20 KELSO ANNUAL MEMBERS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div I: £2,409: 2m 6f) (15) 7-4 Operanie, 9-2 Chopardi Duapes, 6-1 No Germacks, 8-1 Major Harris, 10-1 Establish, 14-1 Mesajuli, 16-1 others.

4.50 KELSO ANNUAL MEMBERS NATIONAL HUNT NOVICES HURDLE (Div (£2,395; 2m 6f 110yd (14)

6-4 Müster Pross, 11-4 Genomeror, 5-1 Müste Stan, 16-1 Jenstein, Fastes Rom, Just One Question, 20-1 others. BLINKERED FIRST TIME: Newbury: 2.25 Degra.

Artful Dane can profit from visor

DONCASTER **CHANNEL 4**

2.05: Magic Combination could be aptly named with Frankie Dettori having been booked to ride by Barney Curley. The selection pos-sessed decent form in Ireland when with Kevin Prendergast, winning three races and finishing second to Theatreworld last season. The four-year-old has shaped with some promise in three runs over hurdles here and looks reasonable

TODAY'S RACES ON TELEVISION

Noufari has won five races on the Fibresand but the Reg Hollinshead-trained stayer, a good fourth behind Celeric in the Northumberland Plate at Newcastle last year, looks nicely weighted on previous runnings against Invest Wisely and Upper Mount Clair.

2.35: Unbeaten in three starts on the all-weather, Mansab looks well treated on his return to the Turf, racing off a handicap mark 4lb lower than when completing his treble at Wolverhampton 37 days ago. Les Eyre was on the mark yesterday with Brutal Fantasy

and the consistent Kira should be race-fit after two recent outings on the all-weather. In a wide-open sprint handicap. a case can be made out for several rivals, including Tiler, Weetman's Weigh and

3.10: Artful Dane recorded improved performances when headgear was worn last autumn, including two good runs over Newmarket's demanding mile. A visor is worn today and, with Michael Roberts booked by the in-form Mikey Heaton-Ellis, he looks to have solid claims.

Pat Eddery is an eye-catchwhile Shinerolla comes into calculations after an encouraging return at Wolverhampton recently. The Colin Parkertrained runner, fourth in the Lincoln last year, is particularly well handicapped on his best form.

3.40: Barry Hills invariably has a winner or two at this meeting and Mithak can begin to justify his \$160,000 price tag by improving on two decent efforts last term. Third to the well-regarded Benny The Dip on his debut at Newmarket, the Silver Hawk colt did even better behind Monza at Newbury and he is a solid form choice.

Mark Johnston and John Gosden were among the winners yesterday and clearly have their strings well forward. Their respective run-ners. One For Baileys and Heritage, look the dangers.

RICHARD EVANS

VESTERDAY'S RESULTS

Doncaster Going: good to firm, good in places

Going: good to Imm. good in places
1.30 (1m 4t) 1. Galapino (R Mullen, 13-2
[Hav): 2. Raifles Rooster (8-1): 3. Urgent
Switt (20-1): 4. Denoing Cavalier (20-1)
Opera But 13-2 [Hav 24 ran, 11. Mit Mass G
Kellewey Tote E7 30, 52 00, 52.60, 27 00,
55.0. DF: 627 40, Tho: 51,367 00 (part
wort, pool of £873.89 carried forward to 2.35
at Donosaster today). CSF: £47 51 Thoss:
£964 57 2984 57
2.05 (Im 2f 60yd) 1, Mitracle (kid (L. Dentori, 9-2, Thunderer's nap); 2, Love Has No Pride (12-1); 3, The Despay (18-1); 4, Sebbery (10-1); Sward Arm 3-1 iar. 15 ran. 3, 41, J Gosden, Tote 55:20; C1 90; E3 40; 23 10 DF: 239 70. Tric £424.10. CSF E56 B8 Tricast £779.22.

2.95 (5) 1. Blueridge Dancer (M Tebbutt, 7-1), 2. Mister Bankes (15-2); 3. Stately Princess (4-1):-lay), Somosterts 4-1):-lay, 15 ran 1-91, 3 B. Meshan, Tota, £13.00; £3.30, £2.80, £190 DF; £37.90 Tno: £13.91, 0 CSF; £53.42. 3.10 (1m) 1, Carryon Creek (L Dettorl, 7-2); 2, Yeast (Evens lav); 3, Band On The Run (20-1) 6 ran 4L nk. J Gosten, Tote: £3.40; £1.60, £1.40 DF: £2.60, CSF: £6.61

2.300 (5) 1. Srutar Femtasy (R. Lappin, 13-2); 2, Elems Lad. (4-1 g-lay); 3. Bishops Court (4-1 g-lay) 12 ran. NR: Gold Edge NA, 2-1 Syre, Toser £7.50; £2.40, £2.00, £2.00 DF-£26.00, Tno. £27.90 CSF; £31.03 Tnosest £106.90 E108 90
4.10 (1m 2/60yd) 1, Breatk The Rules (Mrs. A Perrett, 7-2 tax); 2, Mets Baby (7-1), 3, Desert Fighter (11-1); 4, Mantul (9-1) 20 ran Nix, 61, Mrg. Pipe. Tote: £4.00; £13.0, £3.20, £2.20 DF: £11.40 Tho. £42.30, CSF £29.32 Tricust: £258.14

4-40 (1m) 1, Fly To The Stars IJ Weever, 5-6 tavr; 2, River's Source (3-1); 3, Burning Tutle (10-1), 8 ran, 7, 2 ki M Johnston, Tote, £ 170; £1,10, £1,40, £2,40, DF £2,30, CSF: £3,66

Jackpot: not won (pool of £3,977.35 carried forward to Doncaster today).
Placepot: £62,40. Quadpot: £5.40.

Wincanton

Going: good to lirm, firm in places 2.15 (2m hdle) 1, Mithight Legend (R Johnson, 4-7 (as), 2, Embankment (10-1); 3, Brig Ol Vision (13-2) 14 rat. 3 kl, nk, D Nicholson Toes: 170, 21-40, 52-30, \$1-20, DF: 25-50 Tree: 52-20, CSF, £8,09 Dr.: 25 50 75 6: ch.) 1, Mahwood Castle (A Thomton, 5-2): 2, Raincheck (33-1), 3, Dream Fible (6-17 Lav). 6 ran. Hd. 77. R Aner, Tole: 53.00; £1 40, £5 80. DF: £15 30. CSF: £48.53.

3,15 (3m 11 110yd chi 1, Fooks Errand (Mr. A Baiding, 7-4); 2, Sunley Bay (6-4 lav); 3,

Spring To It (5-21, 3 ran, NR: Danger Baby 41, 101 G Balding, Tota: \$2,70 DF \$2.10, CSF: \$4.08 CS-: 24.06
S.50 (2m 6) holiej 1, Motoqua (R Johnson, 1-2 iav, Privata Handkapper's top rating);
Regal Gern (20-1); 3, Scenic Waters (9-2); 16 ren (20-1); 2, D Micholson Tole 51 60; 21 10, 23.80, 51 50 DF: 29.80 Two: 29.70 CSF- £16.77 4.20 (2m 5/dh) 1, Tom's Geomini Star (Mr E. James, 33-1); 2, Vital Song (7-2), 3. Northern Vitage (33-1) King's Tressure 5-4 (4/); 9 are NRT Tom's Apache 5, 10/ 0 Carter, Tota, 251-50; 25-70; 51-20; 22-60. DF. £197.00 Too, £144.90 (part won, pool of £71-48 samed forward to 2-35 at Doncaster today), CSF, £134-84.

4.50 (2m hdle) 1, Northern Starfight (C Maude, 13-8), 2, Easy Listening (11-8 law): 3, Kino's Cross (12-1), 4 ran. 12l, 18l, M Pipa Tote: £1 90, DF: £2 10 CSF; £4 06 Fig. 10as 21a.0 Dr. 22 Normana (23-1), 3, Setly Scatly (1-4) 11, 14 ran NR- Life's Work. 114, 11, D. Nicholaon, Tote: £130, £110, £6.50, £1.90, Dr. £24.30 Tno £184.00 CSF £27.86, Airer e stewards' inquiry, result stood

Placepot: £82.70. Quadpot: £42.40. Plumpton

Going: good to firm 2.25 (2m 41 mbs) 1, East De Cologne (M Richards, 2-1): 2, Lord Mills (Svens tavi; 3, Prototype (16-1): 12 ran 34-1, 7; Mrs. L Richards Tolar: 230, £1 10, £1 20, £1 90, 0F 22-40, Trio £8 00 CSF; £3.84. 2.55 (2m 5) ch 1. Regal Aura (W Marston, 5-11. 2, Suffolk Road (6-11; 3, Jovist Man 111-8 lay), 8 ran 6, 4t. D O'Brien Total 5-80; 51.20. 22:00, 51.10 DF 521-60. CSF 527-79 Tricket 647-61. 2.25 (2m 11 hdie) 1. General Shirley (M Clinton, 11-4 ji-ley), 2. Scalp em (25-1); 3. Venborough Lad (9-1) Tornal 11-4 ji-lev 10 nan 5f, 8t P Hedger, Tote: C3.90; £1.80, £5.80, £1.80 DF £54.20 Tno: £49.70 CSF £59.92. Tricast. £509.56.

4.00 (2m ch) 1, Fight Lieutenant (0 Bridgiright, 14 favt; 2, Robins Pride (7-2); 3, Mireametro (50-1), 5 ran 41, 23 T Casey, 764: 21.20, £1.00, £1.70, DF £1.50, CSF, £1.45 4.30 (3m 11 110yd ch) 1, Black Church (D O'Sulliven, 2-5 lav), 2, Joker Jack (14-1); 3, Prnoccio (7-1), 4 ran. 4l, dist R Rose, Yote £1.50 DF, £2.50 CSF; £4.54

5.00 (2m 41 hote) 1. Kelly Mac (Mr R Thomlon, 11-4): 2. Always Greeter (2-1 fav), 3. King's Gold (5-1), 8 ren. 2½1, 61 b O'Brien, Tofe (2.10; 61 20, 61 20, 62,00. DF: £3.20 CSF: £7 78 Tricast £21 58 Placepot: £4.00. Quadpot: \$2.80



COURSE SPECIALISTS

NEWBURY: Trainers. D Nicholson, 30 winners from 115 numers, 26 1%, 0 Shawcod, 18 from 55, 24 6%, N Henderson, 21 from 104, 20 2%; R Alner, 5 from 28, 17 9%; M Ppc, 14 from 92, 15.2%, Mrs J Patrian, 8 from 53, 15 1% Jockeys: J Osborne, 40 waners from 151 rides, 26 5%, D Forn, 3 from 13, 23,1%; W Marston, 9 from 56, 16 1%, C Llewellyn, 15 from 109, 13 8%, P Hide, 9 from 75, 12.0%

KELSO: Trainers P Calver, 3 winners from 7 runners, 42 9%, Mrs Jane Storey 6 from 17, 35 9%, Mrs M Reveley, 37 from 126, 29 4%, Mrs J Goodfellow, 13 from 126, 25 0%, J G Fitzgerald, 4 from 16, 25 0%; M Hammund, 23 from 105, 21 9% Jockeys: E Callagnan, 3 winners from 6 rides, 50 0%, Mr M Bradburne, 4 from 11, 36 4%, P Neen, 49 from 137, 35 8%, Mr C Storey, 6 from 21, 28 6%, R Ganthy, 10 from 49, 20 4%.

7-2 Ever Blusseni 5-1 Lively Encounter 6-1 Forces Lad 7-1 Breath Of Scandal 8-1 Quin Engle Burn Out, 12-1 others

| 1 71-5 EXPRESSIBENT 23 (C.S) Mes A Ress 13-12-10 G Pentoid (7) | 71-5 EXPRESSIBENT 23 (C.S) Mes A Ress 13-12-10 G Pentoid (7) | 89 | 71-72-70 L Jefford (7) | 89 | 71-72-70 L Jefford (7) | 89 | 71-72-70 L Jefford (7) | 80 | 71-72-70 L Jefford (7

5-4 Rymmy Cuplet, 11-4 For Printer, 9-2 Expressment, 10-1 Testades, 12-1 Authoritinan, 20-1 The Bodinan, 25-1 Alapa

1 4PO- MR JAMBOREE 347 (CDF-6) D Cardedo 11-11-10 D Ford (3) 81
2 4021 TERAO 9 (CDF-5) M Figs 11-11-10 Gen T J Murphy 93
3 - PP4 MASTER ROSTOM 17 (DLS) R Woodhouse 9-11-8 R Geest 4361P COULRE 34 (CDF,GS.) P Wickots 9-10-9 M A Fizzgrand 83
5 232- CHAMGE THE ACT 353 (CDF,G.S) Mrs. Y Williams 12-10-7

6 -F22 HIGH ALLTITUDE 21 (G.S.) M Heaton Elles 9-10-2 S Powel S

5.4 Teran 7-2 High Albierte 5-1 Coobse Change The Act 10-1 Mt Jamboree 16-1 Master Boston

4.35 NEWBURY RACECOURSE STATION HANDICAP

1 2515 RED RAJA 27 (0,6.5) P Matchell 12-0 J Ostome (5) 2 2424 MORTHERN FLET 39 Ms. A Pened 17-2 Mr A Reguends 92 3 1062 FARRY SHARP 14 (0,8.5) 6 No. 10-10 R Ostom 94 4 350 PROVINCE 27 C Mann 10-0 J Mages (3) 86

6-4 Red Rays 7-4 Northern Fleet 5-2 Fasty State 14-1 Province

4.00 PAUL CROUCHER MEMORIAL TROPHY

HANDICAP CHASE (E4.728: 2m 4l) (6)

HURDLE (£3,318: 2m 110yd) (4)

3.25 ALISON ASSOCIATES HUNTERS CHASE

England's chances bolstered by Catt

By DAVID HANDS, RUGBY CORRESPONDENT

successful defence of their Rugby World Cup sevens title took a timely turn for the better in Hong Kong yester-day when Mike Catt, the Bath stand-off half, reported fit after straining a groin in training earlier this week.

Four years ago Andrew Harriman led a comparatively unknown group of England players into three days of freezing weather in Edinburgh, who emerged as winners of the inaugural Melrose Cup competition. Now Harriman is manager of a team that has played in no sevens competitions, enjoyed only three departure for the Far East. finds itself in conditions as

ENGLAND'S prospects for a and rain were to the Fijians and Samoans and which lost Lawrence Dallaglio, its cap-

Yet England's prospects are brighter than those of the Bateman, have been wrecked James Craig they do have a genuine finisher. Ireland, so

John Fisher savour comprehensive win

JOHN FISHER, from Surrey, flew the flag for comprehensive-school rugby union yesterday beating Durham 28-24 in the final of the Open tournament at the Rosslyn Park schools sevens (a Corres pondent writes).

Coached by Mike Davies. the former London Welsh flanker, John Fisher were the dark horses of the competition and have not progressed beyond the last 16 before this year. Durham, the North of England sevens champions, were also appearing in the final for the first time but with Jonathan Golightly, last season's England Under-16 stand-off half, and Hall Charlton, the north of England Under-18 scrum half,

they started as favourites. However, it was John Fisher who drew first blood when Carrelle Dixon showed his pace to score. They went further ahead through Shelbourne, the scrum half, before Dixon again showed the Durham defence a clean pair of heels to extend the lead.

tain, this week. "Five of the team played in 1993, so it is just a case of

bringing the other five into the fold quickly." Harriman said, aithough this time England. blessed with all-round pace. have nobody who possesses the raw speed that Harriman had himself when on the wing for Harlequins.

other home unions. Wales, despite the experience of Allan by injury and Scotland's youngsters may find them-selves outclassed, though in

out a talented Eltham side in their semi-final, replied with tries from Stanley and Isaacson, but when John

Fisher's captain. Pilkington,

scored fourth try the contest vas effectively over. A late Durham rally had the crowd on its feet but despite two further tries by the substitute, Brown, and Cavey. the Surrey schoolboys held on for a well-deserved victory.

It was also the final of the inaugural Colts tournament which saw Millfield run out comfortable 34-10 winners over Llanhari, from mid-Glamorgan. Trailing 10-0 in the first half, Millfield staged an overpowering recovery with King scoring two spectacular

RESULTS: Open tournament: Quanter-finals: Campion 22 St Edward's 12, John Fisher 32 Hampton 5, Sr Joseph's 24 Durham 31: Etham 31 Glantal 24 Semi-finals: Campion 0 John Fisher 29, Durham 24 Etham 12 Final: John Fisher 28 Durham 24 Colts tournament: Quarter-finals: Habe-erdashers' Aske's 19 Oratory 22; LLanhari 22 Dwr-y-Felin 19; RGS High Wycombe 7 Millfield 38, Birchgrove 12 Bryanston 26. Semi-finals: Llanhari 38 Oratory 5; Millfield

unlucky not to reach the inaugural final (they lost in the semi-final to Australia). have to survive difficult group games against South Africa who are led by Joost van der Westhuizen — and Argentina.

Should England succeed where no northern-hemisphere team has done since the Barbarians in 1981 and win in Hong Kong, it will be a marvellous achievement. Far more likely, however, is success for Fiji or the wellmotivated New Zealanders, despite the absence of Jonah Lomu, through illness, Chris-Culien, through injury and various leading players contracted to their Super 12

England open against Can-ada and Zimbabwe today in a 24-team tournament expected to produce a turnover in excess of £6 million, despite complaints over the absence of top players from the leading countries. In that respect, England have not let the tournament down, but the clash with the Super 12 series has removed such players as George Gregan and Matthew Burke from the scene.

Not, however, the irrepressible David Campese, for whom this will be a last fling in Australia's colours; nor the aptly-named Eric Rush, who leads New Zealand into ac-tion. Waisale Serevi, the little genius at stand-off half, returns yet again with Fiji.

In the week that China received membership of the Internatioal Rugby Football Board, Hong Kong field a team which, for the first time, includes a Chinese player in Chan Fuk-Ping.

to prevent Will Greenwood from joining the England as cover, which has caused the postponement of Leicester's league game against Gloucester tomorrow. FIRST ROUND POOLS; A: Canada, Eng



Puskas warms up with some shooting practice before calling the tune at Wembley in October 1963

Puskas gallops to new milestone Brian Glanville salutes one of the world's

lootball today?" Ference Puskas said. "I don't see it. Where is it?" He was standing, in sunshine, on the thick, green turf of Wembley Stadium, where in November 1953, he had done so only cap that day, and Jackie much to help Hungary thrash Sewell, who scored a goal -England 6-3: the first foreign were present to pay genial team to triumph on English

Later, on a television screen, we were shown flickering. Subbuteo images of the remarkable goal he scored when he pulled the ball back with the sole of his boot and Billy Wright, in the timeless words of Geoffrey Green in The Times, rushed past him "like a fire engine going to the wrong

Galloping Major gallops no more; the paunch is extravagant, as it has been for years, but the uitra-Hungarian hairline remains largely undisturbed. As does the ur-

Puskas will be 70 next month. A cake was produced in his honour; he blew out the candles in two puffs. The England team that lost that Stanley Matthews,

greatest players, who will be 70 next month was a goal," Puskas said, "but George Robb, who won his

the linesman gave offside and

the referee agreed." thought Puskas should not have played in that game, that he was not fully fit and that his return upset the balance of the team that should have been flourishing without him. In 1956, finding himself

providentially abroad with the Honved club when the Hungarian uprising broke out, he stayed away and eventually struck up a glorious partner-ship with Alfredo Di Stefano. the Argentina international, at

In the fabled European Cup final of 1960, against Eintracht Frankfurt, in Glasgow, Puskas scored four goals and Di Stefano three. Two years later, in the final in Amsterdam, against Benfica, who won 5-3. Puskas scored all of Real's goals. The legend goes that at the final whistle, he his heir to the throne, Eusebio.
"I didn't give it to anyone," he

He has just published a new book, Puskas on Puskas (Robson Books, £17.95), in which he speaks of learning football in he streets of Budapest and, indeed, he has remained the eternal Budapest urchin - If one has a special memory of him, it is not of any of those marvellous goals, not even the one he scored in Amsterdam when he ran half the length of the field on to Di Stefano's pass. It is of a night later that year in Santiago. Chile had finished third in

the World Cup and Puskas had played for Spain. The streets throbbed with the celebrations of Chile fans. There, in a doorway, munching monkey nuts, the urchin grin on his face, was . . . Puskas. . . .

He returned to Wembley in May 1971 as manager of Panathmaikos, of Greece, who had reached the European Cup final, but lost 2-0 to Ajax. and later he coached in Vancouver. He showed us that he

UniBond pennant embellishes last eight

Non-League Football By Walter Gammie

THE biggest representation in the FA Umbro Trophy quarter-finals tomorrow comes not from the Vauxhall Conference but from the UniBond League, which has three clubs (Ashton United, Bishop Auckland and Colwyn Bay) in action, as against only two (Stevenage Borough and Woking) from the competition at the top of the Non-League pyramid.

Bishop Auckland's place in the quarter-finals was con-firmed only after the FA dismissed an appeal by Altrincham to have Bishop Auckland's 1-0 win in the third round overturned. Altrincham said that their defeat was caused by the crowd trouble among visiting supporters that brought a 24-minute delay to the match at Moss Lane. Bishop Auckland's home tie against Gloucester City, of the Dr Martens League, is further shadowed by the resignation of Steve Newcombe, the club chairman, citing apathy within the club and its supporters.
Ashton United are the most

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unlikely quarter-finalists, playing their football in the UniBond first division but finding inspiration under the management of John Coleman, formerly a prolific goalscorer with Morecambe. They travel to play Dagenham and Redbridge, who were relegated from the Conference

to the Icis League last season. Such is their cup record thisseason that it is perhaps no surprise that Colwyn Bay. who travel to play Stevenage Borough, the Conference champions, should have survived so far. They reached the first round of the FA Cup and have also qualified for the semi-finals of the UniBond League Cup.

In the other match. Heybridge Swifts, of the Icis League, the conquerors of Kidderminster Harriers in the previous round, turn their attentions to Woking. The tie at Scraley Road has been made all ticket, with a 2,500 limit, and Heybridge have borrowed 40 stewards from Colchester United.

EXCLUSIVE TIMES NEWSPAPERS GRAND PRIX COMPETITION



£40,000 of prizes to be won

Puskas had a left foot that

terrorised defences, (with a

left foot like that, you don't need a right foot." Danny

Blanchflower, the Tottenham

Hotspur captain, once said)

but he never won a World Cup

winner's medal. In 1954, when

Hungary were red-hot favourites, he was kicked from

behind in their opening 8-3

victory over West Germany

He refused to use this as an

excuse. "We lost 3-2; I haven't

anything else to say," he said.

enough." But was the goal he

scored, which would have

been the equaliser, wrongly

ruled out by Mervyn Griffiths,

the Welsh linesman, and Bill

Ling, the English referee? "It

We lost a game and that's

and did not play again until the final, which they lost to the

Enter a team today for the Brazilian Grand Prix

HOW THE POINTS WERE SCORED IN MELBOURNE

DRIVERS: Qualifying points (scored by qualifying for the start of each grand prix within the first 20 positions on the grid): Pole J Villeneuve 30 points; 2nd H-H Frentzen 25; 3rd M Schumacher 24; 4th D Coulthard 23; 5th E Irvine 22; 6th M Hakkinen 21; 7th J Herbert 20; 8th J Alesi 19; 9th O Panis 18; 10th G Berger 17; 11th R Barrichello 16; 12th R Schumacher 15; 13th N Larini 14; 14th G Fishichella 13; 15th U Katayama 12; 16th S Nakano 11; 17th J Trulli 10; 18th M Salo 9; 19th J Magnussen 8; 20th D Hill 7. Finishing points (scored for the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): 1st D Coulthard 60 points; 2nd M Schumacher 50; 3rd M Hakkinen 40; 4th G Berger 30; 5th O Panis 29; 6th N Larini 28; 7th S Nakano 27; 8th H-H Frentzen 26; 9th J Trulli 25; 10th P Diniz 24. (Only 10 finished). Lap points (one point for each lap completed): D Coulthard 58 points; M Schumacher 58; M Hakkinen 58; G Berger 58; O Panis 58; N Larini 58; S Nakano 56; H-H Frentzen 55; J Trulli 55; P Diniz 54; R Barrichello 49; M Salo 42; J Magnussen 36; J Alesi 34; U Katayama 32; G Fishichella 14; J Verstappen 2; R Schumacher 1. Improvement from starting grid to finishing position (3 points for each improved place): P Diniz 36 points; S Nakano 27; J Trulli 24; N Larini 21; G Berger 18; O Panis 12; M Hakkinen 9; D Coulthard 9; M Schumacher 3. Fastest lap time of grand prix: HH Frentzen 10 points. Penalty points incident resulting in a driver being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted); none. Elimination during the race (10 points deducted): J Villeneuve -10 points; E Irvine -10; J Alesi -10; R Barrichello -10; H-H Frentzen -10; J Herber t-10; M Salo -10; J Verstappen -10; U Katayama -10; R Schumacher -10; G Fishichella -10; J Magnussen -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): D Hill -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

CONSTRUCTORS Finishing points (scored for the first car only in the top 20 positions at the end of every grand prix): McLaren 30 points; Ferrari 25; Benetton 23; Prost 22; Sauber 21; Williams 19; Minardi 18; Arrows 17. Penalty points incident resulting in a car being made to start from back of grid or pit lane (10 points deducted): none. Elimination of a car during the race (10 points deducted): Williams -20 points; Jordan -20; Tyrrell -20; Stewart -20; Ferrari -10; Benetton -10; Sauber -10; Minardi -10. Not starting after qualifying (10 points deducted): Arrows -10 points. Speeding in the pit lane (5 points deducted): none.

The first results in our £40,000 Fantasy Formula One competition, the points for the Australian Grand Prix in Melbourne, appear below. And there is still plenty of time to enter a team for the Brazilian Grand Prix the first of six races which carry up to 600 bonus points for the team managers who can correctly predict any of the first three drivers to cross the finishing line. The top petie of £25,000, in association with the Maribury World Championship Team, will go to the manager of the Fram which heads our leaderheard after the final race of the season, the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26. There are also two runners up prizes of 610,000 and 25,000 to be won.

To enter choose six racing di each of the four groups littlew. Surnoon on Thursday, March, A types
Grand Prix in Intertagos of March
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check your position on our barders.

J Bell of Kethering Spectrum

for scoring 816 rounds at the east off
I Pigeon, St St. mark
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MAKE THREE SELECTIONS FROM EACH OF THE FOUR GROUPS BELOW

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FANTASY FORMULA ONE 24-HOUR ENTRY LINE: 0891 405 001

+44 990 100 311 outside the UK

0891 calls cost 50p per minute (standard tariffs apply to +44 990 calls). ● For inquiries call 01582 702 720, Mon-Fri, 9am to 5pm

THE PRIZES

JACKPOT

The team manager heading our Fantasy Formula One leaderboard after the European Grand Prix at Estoril, Portugal, on October 26, will win £25,000. Prizes of £10,000 and £5,000 will go to two

INDIVIDUAL RACE WINNERS The manager of the team which scores the most points in the Brazillan Grand Prix will win a trip for two to British Grand Prix on July 13.

The runner-up will get a Sony with a Formula One and **Porsche** Challenge game worth



TRANSFERS

if you've already entered a team you can change up to four selections before the Brazilian GP by calling 0891 555 994 (++44 990 100 394 ex UK) before noon on Thursday March 27. Your new team must comprise three selections from each of groups A, B, C and D. The first three selections you make will be deemed to be your prediction for the Brazilian GP bonus points.

CHECK YOUR SCORE

Players can check the scores and positions of their teams by calling the 24-hour checkline 0891 884 648 (Republic of Ireland 0044 990 100 348) and tapping in their 10-digit PIN number. The line currently carries all positions after the Australian Grand Prix and will be updated again on Wednesday April 2 after the Brazilian GP.

TO ENTER BY PHONE

Call our entry hotline on 0891 405 001 (+44 990 100 311 outside the UK). Calls last approximately seven minutes and must be made using a Touch-tone telephone (most telephones with * and * keys are Touch-tone).

Follow the instructions on the entry line and tap in your 12 two-digit selections in turn. The order in which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You will then be asked to give your Fantasy Formula One team name, together with your own name, address, postcode and daytime telephone number (please note, you need to speak these details). You will receive a 10-digit PIN number as confirmation of your entry. Please keep a

record of this with your team details. You can enter a team at any time until noon on Thursday, March 27, to qualify for the start of the Brazilian Grand Prix.

BY POST/FAX

Complete the form, right, with your 12 two-digit . selections. The order in Which you register your first three drivers will be your predictions for the 1st, 2nd and 3rd finishing places for the grands prix where bonus points apply. You

will receive a 10-digit PIN number to confirm your Or fax the form with your credit-card details to 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK). To qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix, postal entries

must arrive by first post

Tuesday March 25, and

faxed entries by noon on

that day.

1st

GROUP C AND D CONSTRUCTORS

2nd

GROUPS A AND B DRIVERS

March 25, 1997, and noon on that day for faxed entries.

Mr/Mrs/Miss/Ms . Daytime Tel . **Credit Card Payment** Card number: sheet of paper if different from that above

THE TIMES FANTASY FORMULA ONE ENTRY FORM.

Complete this form with your credit-card details, or enclose a sterling cheque for £2.50 psyable to

The closing date for receipt of this form to qualify for the Brazilian Grand Prix is first post Tuesday,

Fantasy Formula One, and post it to: The Times Fantasy Formula One, Abacus House, Dudley

Street, Luton LU1 1ZZ. Or fax it on 01582 452106 (+44 1582 452106 outside the UK).

Pigott put in charge of Sussex's rebuilding

TONY PIGOTT, the former Sussex fast bowler who triggered the revolution that led to the committee being driven out by the sheer force of its members' feelings, was given his reward yesterday. He is to be director of cricket and acting chief executive under a completely new management structure.

lers.

15m

ack

leBride

It is far more than Pigott had envisaged when he launched his campaign to try to change the way the club was run only three weeks ago and far more than he even dreamt about when he was dismissed as a player at the end of the

Not surprisingly, he looked bewildered by the pace of events as he drove away from the Oval after confirming his resignation as the Surrey sec-ond team coach, the job that the county had kept open for him while he involved himself in the affairs of his former club for the simple reason that he

What Pigott did not know when he first set about collect-ing the 50 members' signatures that he needed to force a special meeting, at which he hoped to oust the committee. was that two more powerful figures, Robin Marlar, a former captain and the most trenchant of cricket correspondents, and Jim May, regional corporate director of the Royal Bank of Scotland, were plot-

ting their own coup.

Once the combined weight of Marlar's opinions, May's expertise and Pigott's enthusiasm was brought to bear at a passionate annual meeting in the Grand Hotel, Brighton, it produced a tide of opinion that swept away the old guard.

Within an hour, Marlar, 66, had been installed as chairman — "only for a year," he said "because I would I ve yet said, because I state. I've get a nice wife and she is not too pleased" — and yesterday he began to put the new structure place with the playing "keep it simple. philosophy give good people responsi-

By PAT GIBSON

bility and let them get on with Apart from his cricket writing. Marlar is a headhunter of international repute but he did not have to look far for his first appointment. That will save us a big fee, he chuckled as he gave Pigott what amounts to

full responsibility for running the club, at least until the chief executive's job is sorted out. That is obviously tied up with the position of the club secretary. Nigel Bett, who has been absent on sick leave since a picture of him appeared in a naturist magazine. "Nothing will be said about his position until he is fit enough to come and see me," Marlar said.
There is still a job as

Under Pigott will be a director of marketing, a director of finance and the present coaching staff of Desmond Haynes, Chris Waller and Ian Waring. "The main thing." Marlar said, "is to create a culture where all sorts of highly competent people are encouraged to do their own

There will also have to be elections for six more committee members to join the newly installed Marlar, May and Dick Holste, a retired bank manager, but for the moment it is going to be up to Pigott to revitalise a club that had been thrown into turmoil by the departure of six capped players during the winter.

"It is amazing how quickly this has all happened," Pigott said. "When I started it, I just wanted to get on to the committee to try to get things changed. I never imagined that I would finish up in a position such as this but it's all very exciting and I am looking forward to it.

"I've got a very big job on my hands but I believe I can do it. It is a question of everybody getting together. Pulling in the same direction and moving Sussex forward. I am confident that we can do

Healy proud to keep his rivals at bay

Australia's ebullient wicketkeeper reveals some of his appealling

characteristics to Jack Bannister

ride, pride and even more pride glows from lan Healy, the Australia wicketkeeper, as he talks about the part he is playing in what is rapidly becoming a high-quality side.

The Queenslander made his first-class debut in 1986-87, and his Test debut arrived after only six Sheffield Shield

after only six Sheffield Shield matches. More remarkable still is his tally of Test and Shield matches since. "I have played in 87 Tests, but still only 33 Shield games," he

Asked about the Australian superstition that 87 is the Devil's number, he laughed. The Port Elizabeth Test was my 87th, and the Wanderers Test was Steve Waugh's 87th. Didn't do us much harm, did it? Steve got 160 and I hit the

His decisive boundary reflected the ease of mind with which he approached the situation as Jason Gillespie joined him at the wicket with the Australia score having dipped from 258 for five to 265 for eight, still five runs short of the victory target. "I had no worries at all," he said. "I know he [Gillespie] can play straight and I would have taken any run on offer, but that six eased all the pain.

"It was special to me because we've lost the other three tight finishes I've played in — against South Africa by five runs, against Pakistan by one wicket and by one run against the West Indies. This one made up for them all."

Criticised for his excessive appeals when he started in Test cricket, Healy's morality about the modern trend of shouting for everything is stated firmly and with that familiar pride.

"I actually appeal less now than when I started," he said. "It's a matter of personal confidence, because I'm not afraid to tell the bowler that the ball was missing the stumps. When I started, Terry Alderman would come and stand at slip after bowling his over, and he would rocket me

if I hadn't joined in." Does he get upset when he knows that a batsman is out, and the batsman knows he is



Stand up and be counted: Healy's commitment to Australia's cause is unquenchable

out, but gets away with it?
"No. He might get a few mouthfuls but it is the umpire we've got the beef with. I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes, for and

He believes the Australian has no doubt contributed to

approach has changed in the that feeling of well-being, and past ten years. "I reckon we are now better equipped with aggression and confidence than when I started, and now we have a good side with great spirit."

The return of Shane Warne

He's there and I know because I have kept in 49 of his 50 Tests. I've seen Shane develop from a raw Academy

no one is better placed than Healy to judge if the demon

spinner is back to his best.

only a couple of years. It was a big finger operation that he had but his consistency is back, although he gets more impatient now if a wicket doesn't come.

"Not many people realise that in 1993 he bowled more balls in a Test calendar year balls in a rest caching than anyone in history. He was bowling 40 and 50 overs in England and taking four for 70 by building up pressure. on the batsmen. I reckon he soon spotted he couldn't do
that for ever, so he doesn't
bowl so much and therefore
wants his wickets more

ruickly."
Healy still has good hands, but he blames problems with his contact lenses for the persistent bruising they have suffered since the recent series against the West Indies.
"I had some eye irritation. and never found out for a few weeks that I had two chipped

The bruising is difficult to shake off taking two bowlers

'I don't believe anyone should walk for anything so I can take what comes'

of the pace of Glenn McGrath and Gillespie, who is margin-

ally the quicker." He speaks proudly of his maiden Test hundred at Old Trafford in 1993. "Steve Waugh told me when I was 20 that it would be my day and gave me a lot of the strike, and everything went

His Test record - 299 victims — tells a remarkable tale of achievement, but he is hungry for more. "I'm ahead of everyone except Rod Marsh for strike-rate," he said. "Jeff Dujon and Alan Knott ware account the 220 Knott were around the 270 mark off 81 and 95 Tests."

"I couldn't believe I only copped one at St George's Port Elizabeth on that pitch, but it the 300th will come. And I want to become the first wicketkeeper to play in 100

Talk to him about the vicecaptaincy, and that glow of pride fills his open counte-nance "It is a great honour and a privilege and I love it." he said. Pride, pride and even more

pride.

Taylor's place looks safe despite failings

FROM JACK BANNISTER IN CENTURION

CENTURION Park, the home ground of Northern Transvaal, hosts its second Test match today, the third and final game in the series between South Africa and Australia which the touring team lead 2-0 thanks to the six hit by Ian Healy in Port Elizabeth on Monday. A win by two wickets is not

quite the narrowest possible margin, but the teams were drained, nevertheless, by 312 days of wildly fluctuating cricket. Now, four days later. they have to start all over again. As the series has also been decided, the players could be forgiven if motiva-tion is lacking. But there are places and pride to play for. Not all of this victorious Australia party are certain to be picked for the coming Ashes tour of England, including the openers. Mark Taylor and Matthew Hayden. Taylor has received criticism from the media because of his poor form with the bat his last 18 innings have produced only 307 runs. But he commands the respect and even affection of his players. and his country's authorities know what a magnificent job he has done since he took over as captain from Allan Border.

The smart money says that, even if he fails again with the bat, he will come to England. South Africa have been rocked by the double beating they have suffered, but take some solace from the view that Australia are the best in

the world. With Shaun Pollock out of the match today and doubts about the ability of Brian McMillan to bowl because of a bruised left heel, Brett Schultz, the fast bowler, neturns.

Australia have injury worries about Taylor, Steve Waugh, Jason Gillespie and Glerun McGrath, but the first three are expected to play. South African pride has

taken a battering, and whether it can recover against this talented Australian side is one of several aspects of interest in of several aspects of interest unthe game — dead series or not.
Australia (nom: M Taylor (captan), M
Hayden, M Elicot. M Waugh, S Waugh, G
Blawett, M Bevan, I Healy, S Warre, J
Gillespie, G McGrath, Pleifiet
SOUTH AFRICA (from): G Kirsten, A
Bacher, B McKellian, D Cullman, H Cronje
(captan), J Kallis, L Klusener, D Richerdson, A Donald, B Schultz, P Adams, H

SPORTS LETTERS

Time for a European rugby championship

From Mr N. J. D. Baptiste Sir, While the England rugby union squad can obviously draw encouragement for the future from this season's results, the players will no doubt realise that only the French team provided them with opposition of the quality they will encounter from the southern hemisphere teams between now and the end of the next

World Cup.
Gerald Davies (March 17) rightly pointed out that a fault in England's forward play is a constant tendency to ruck and maul instead of maintaining the momentum of the attack by keeping the ball in the hand and going forward or letting the backs have it quickly while the opposition is still in

disartay. He might well have added that the current fashion in the home countries for the backs

Word of caution

From Mr Michael Madden

Sir, Much has been said and

Not a word seems to have

been uttered about the inci-dent in the Wales v England

match when Gareth Thomas

Sleightholme in an attempt to

feet first into Jon

also creates such a lack of momentum that almost the only way of breaching the opposing line is by dummy runs or miss-moves. The French backs, by contrast, run onto their passes at speed in the traditional way and, as they showed all season, are very dangerous whenever they get the ball as a res-

Now that the internal political problems of English rugby look capable of solution reasonably quickly, it is surely time for the respective unions in the five nations countries to start promoting the game properly in view of the wellfinanced competition for young players from professoccer, rugby league and American football.

to line flat in attack, in the

to transform it into a genuine style of rugby league, and take the ball almost standing still for improvements.

The first step should be to include Italy in the five nations

European championship, especially as their national team is better than the French side when it was first admitted to the competition. If the Italian main ground facilities are still considered not good enough. the other rugby unions should give or loan them the money

The next steps in this new professional era could be to have each country play each other on both a home and away basis using both Saturdays and Sundays for internationals if necessary. Simultaneously a second di-

vision should be established for the minor rugby-playing countries such as Spain, Germany, Holland, Russia and Poland. Yours faithfully N. J. D. BAPTISTE.

23 Gladwyn Road. Putney, SW15.

enham.

stayed there until 1972 when the Parc des Princes was rebuilt. But their new venue

was still the Parc des Princes

- just as the recently rebuilt

Twickenham is still Twick-

I rather think, and hope,

that the second rebuilding of

Cardiff Arms Park in my

lifetime will not alter the name

by which that hallowed corner

of Cardiff is known It will

always be the Arms Park, just

as the "Parc des Princes" has

survived since at least 1906.

Sir, While sportsmen rejoice at having rugby dignified by its inclusion on your leader page ("Scrum down for history", March 15) your leader-writer written about the vigorous, not to say reckless, challenge on Craig Chalmers by Chris-tophe Lamaison in the France v Scotland game last Saturbeing used for internationals day, to the extent that the Scottish Rugby Union has felt it necessary to cite the French since 1972", France played their very first international match on January I.

> Of course, France moved their international matches to the Stade Colombes after that stadium was built for the 1924 Olympic Games, and they

From Mr Andrew Heywood Sir, In modern rugby, which is constantly changing its rules to create a faster, more open game, why are international matches brought to a standstill while a player builds a sandcastle on the pitch? I refer of course to Jonathan

Davies's preparations for place kicks last Saturday against England in Cardiff. If ayers are not prepared to

ANDREW HEYWOOD. 5 Maple Grove. Ealing, W5.

Goalkeepers undo myth

From Mr lan Kinloch Sir, One of the enduring

myths of football was that England had the best goal-keepers in the world. The overseas competition might be able to boast of outfield players such as Puskas. Pelé or Platini, but, when it came to goalkeeping, Banks, Shilton and Clemence, reared in a footballing culture which did not mollycoddle goalkeepers. stood supreme.

But this myth seems in danger of dying. Looking at the reports of Premiership matches (March 17), we see that Chelsea, Sunderland, Aston Villa, West Ham United, Manchester United and Middlesbrough (the last having tried three "native" goalkeep-ers this season) all fielded overseas goalkeepers. In fact the total would have been even higher had Kasey Keller been available for Leicester City.

Is the supply of English goalkeepers drying up or is the rest of the world catching Yours faithfully

IAN KINLOCH. 40 Box Lane. Wrexham. Clwyd.

Cheltenham limit From Mr C. K. Simpson

Sir. I agree with Jack Water-

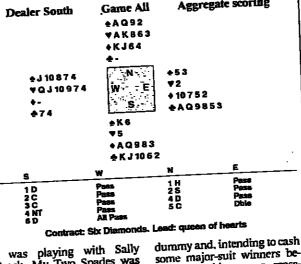
man (Racing Commentary. March 17) that there should be a limit to the attendance at the Cheltenham Festival. Have they not learnt a thing from the Hillsborough disaster. [was in the Courage ring on Gold Cup day and all the bars were absolutely chock-full: there is no pleasure in being in an overcrowded place. Everywhere, including the toilets, had queues, and getting out after the last race was even worse as the whole crowd came into a bonleneck, with no supervision. Before it is too late, Cheltenham should get safety minded.

Yours faithfully. C. K. SIMPSON, 128 Old Town Lane, Pelsali. West Midlands.

mangers we regress treat price of the Apple Wasse Vigine Vision to Return to 1981 and the Section of 1981 (2) 179 miles AFF and the Section of 1981 and 1981 (2) 179 miles AFF and the Section of 1981 and 1981 (2) 179 miles AFF and the Section of 1981 and 1

SHEEHAN on BRIDGE

By ROBERT SHEEHAN, BRIDGE CORRESPONDENT The slam hand in this Refresher occurred in a Hubert Phillips match (the national mixed teams championship). Aggregate scoring



Brock. My Two Spades was fourth-suit forcing, asking Sally to describe her hand further. Her Three Clubs showed she had at least five clubs, and therefore at least five diamonds. At that point I had enough playing strength to bid Six Diamonds, but to investigate a possible grand slam I jumped to Four Diamonds; that showed slam interest with a good diamond

made a cue-bid of Four Spades at this point, but she decided to use Roman Key-Card Black-wood; my Five Club response showed 0 or 3 'aces', the king of diamonds counting as an ace. The grand slam is quite a good contract but doomed as the cards lie. Sally won the heart lead in

By Philip Howard

CHERIMOYA a. Wassailing b. A finial c. A Peruvian fruit

CHITTARONE a. A pig's intestines

b. Rigmarole c. A lute-like instrument

some major-suit winners before embarking on a cross-ruff, cashed the king of hearts. East and declarer both discarded spades. Sally now played a spade to the king and a trump. When West showed out she could no longer make her contract - try it if you like but there is nothing that Sally was quick to point out

her error. Once she has made three major-suit winners she knows she can make nine i think Sally should have more on a complete cross-ruff, because she knows West has the heart length and East the clubs (note his foolish double of Five Clubs), so neither of them will be able to overruff. ☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

WORD WATCHING

CHITTERLING a. Magpie's converse b. A pork dish c. A form of stamp perforation сносно

a. A tropical cucumber

b. A small dog

c. Unsatisfied Answers on page 46

KEENE on CHESS

By RAYMOND KEENE CHESS CORRESPONDENT

Members' maestro I have mentioned before in this column the extraordinary exploits of Marmaduke Wyvill MP. Withor marmaduke wyvili Mr. wiln-out a doubt. Wyvill was the strongest player ever to sit in the House of Commons. Representing Richmond in Yorkshire for many years, he still found the time to

develop his chess strengths to

remarkable levels.

Stylistically, Wyvill was a disciple of Howard Staunton. He liked fiancheto, or flank, developments of his birthern of his bishops, often chose to defend with the Sicilian against White's king pawn opening and had a fine strategic awareness of the power of a mobile pawn centre. Wyvill's main achievement was to take second prize at the first ever international tournament held at London, in 1851, to coincide with the Great Exhibition. In so doing, he outdistanced established mas-ters of the day such as Staumon and Williams. Wyvill succumbed only to Adolf Anderssen in the final. Since Anderssen was very final. Since Anderssen was very much the unofficial world cham-

pion of his day this was a truly outstanding feat on Wyvill's part.

outstanding leaf on wyvin's part.
Even though he lost the march
against Anderssen in the final,
Wyvill scored a couple of elegant
victories. The following is a good example White: Adolf Anderssen Black: Marmaduke Wyvili London 1851

1 e4 2 d4 3 Nt3 4 Nxd4 e6 * Ni6 Be7 0-0 5 Be3 6 Bd3 0-0 Nd2 bxc5 Nd7 Nxc6 e5 |4 Rt3 12 WINNING MOVE

13 Rh3 14 b3 15 Nt3 16 Bt2 Od2 Bf1 Qh4 Rg7 Ne3 cxd4 Rc1+ Nd5 Oc6 Ob6 Rc2 Rxd2

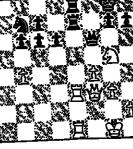
Rc2 Ba6 Qg3 Qf3 White resig⊓s Diagram of final position 7 1 1 1

1位15位 Times book

The Times Winning Moves 2 contains 240 chess puzzles from contains 240 criess puzzes from international grandmaster Raymond Keene's daily column in The Times, and is available now from bookshops or from B. T. Baisford Ltd (tel: 01376 321276 at £6,99 plus postage and packing). Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

By Raymond Keene

White to play. This position is from the game Gutop -Kuindzi, USSR 1977. How did White resolve the tension on the e-file in his favour with a fine attacking flourish?



vn 61%

163

ling

oth

prevent a try, catching the English wing's head with a knee and causing him to leave the field injured. The Welsh wing should at least have been cautioned for foul play and, as Sleightholme had already been forced into touch at the corner, a penalty awarded to England 15 metres in from touch five metres from the Weish goalline.

Yours faithfully. MICHAEL MADDEN (Training and Development Officer, Sussex Society of Rugby Football Union Referees). 4 Park Road, Burgess Hill, West Sussex.

Princely stadium

From Mr D. B. J. Frost should be reminded that, far from the Parc des Princes

1906 at the Parc des Princes against the All Blacks.

Against the tide

prayers are not prepared to use the plastic tees provided, then they should not he allowed to kick. Yours faithfully

Yours faithfully.

D. B. J. FROSŤ.

Richmond.

9 Pagoda Avenue.

Sports Letters may be sent by fax to 0171-782 5211. They should include a daytime telephone number.

Baker plays joker in wild-card selection debate

FROM MELWEBB IN GRAN CANARIA

AS AN exercise in perching steadfastly on the fence it was a classic. Peter Baker, once a Ryder Cup hero, decided yesterday that there were very good reasons to change the rules on Ryder Cup selection. The only thing was, he did not think it was right to change the rules. Confused? Join the

The personable Baker, who won three points in a losing cause in the 1993 match at The Belfry, had a 67 yesterday, six under par, to finish the first round of the Turespaña Masters a shot off the lead, alongside four other players. He then embarked on his theories about how many wild-card selections Severiano Ballesteros, the Ryder Cup captain, should have for this year's match.

"I think three picks [not two] would be satisfactory, it would definitely be helpful." he said. We all want to have the best team and we all want to keep the cup." So far, so good, and everything would have been perfectly clear had he stopped

No such luck, for Baker had more to say. "The trouble is, in change the rules when you're to European members of the halfway through the game. I can't think of any other sport it could happen in.

He even went further. "Actually, I think it would be better to have four picks." he said. This was becoming complicated. "And I think we should play for places from January to September: then we would be sure of having the in-form players in the team. If guys can't give up six months to try to qualify for the team, you have to wonder if they want to get in."

So which way would Baker be voting when he received the ballot form that is being sent

FIRST ROUND

any sport, it's very difficult to Birdie putt smoothes path for Robinson

JEREMY ROBINSON, a former European Tour player, the 30ft birdie putt that took him and David Jones into the last four of the Sunningdale

Robinson had been upset by an incident at the 5th hole in the quarter-final with Mark Palmer and Gary Walmsley. Jones was in a bunker but before he played the shot, his teenaged caddie went to fetch the rake and in doing so smoothed out the sand.

Robinson then heard his opponents discussing whether they could claim the hole and, incensed by what he considered to be unsportsmanlike conduct, told them they could have it.

had ended with his dramatic Wedsworth by Whitin and Jones at 20th.

Robinson discovered that because the caddie had acted without the authority of his player, and was not improving the lie, he was entitled to

ing the lie, he was entitled to smooth the sand.
FOURTH ROUND: G Smith (Camberley Heath) and W Riley (Aus) bt D Griffiths (West Hests) and A Frayne (St Meltion) 6 and 4: A Reynolds (Floyal Cinque Ports) and A Hall (Sand Martins) bt S Gallagher (Trentham Park) and R Fisher (Mel Ride) and G Welmoley (Duke's Drive) bt C Defoy and W Deby (Coombe Hill) 2 and 1: J Robinson (The Vele) and D Jones (Three Rivers) bt S Murray (Chatfram Park) and C Ledger (Hassodds) 4 and 3: J Kemp and M Willow (John O'Gaurd) bt S View (Whitting-bth) and P Smith (Harsheld) 3 and 2: P

PGA European Tour to give them the chance to vote on the issue? "I honestly don't know," he said, leaving nobody with the impression that he had made up his mind. Was he being indecisive? "I'm not sure." End of conversation. Baker had been a good deal more positive on the golf course. He included three 15foot putts in a round of seven birdies and only one dropped shot. That came at the 7th, his 16th, and was the only occasion when one of five poor drives betrayed him. Baker is 35th in the Ryder

Cup points list at present, but has his eyes firmly set on a place in the team to play the United States at Valderrama. If he stays put he is unlikely to be picked, even if Ballesteros is allowed to select all 12 players, so he has to earn his way in. If he votes for three picks, it would be just his luck if he finished tenth in the list.

Adam Hunter, level with Baker, José Rivero, José Coceres and Mats Hallberg, but a shot behind Brian Davis. putted brilliantly to birdie the first five holes, including one from 45 feet and two from 20 feet. Another birdie at the 7th took him to the turn in 30, a

He had had trouble with his driver all the way round, and little crooked off the tee when his head dropped off on the 18th — the club's, that is, not the one that sits on his shoulders. He was last seen seeking a tube of Araldite.

José Maria Olazabal had a wildly inconsistent 70. He started at the 10th and reached the 18th one under par with two bogeys and a birdie, then played eight holes without a par — a sequence that went birdie, birdie, birdie, bogey, birdie, birdie, double bogey, birdie. There is more than one way to finish three under par, and Olazabal went the scenic

He was still bemused by it all when he mooched away from the recorder's tent. "I just don't feel comfortable over the ball," he said. "I need to be that again.



Faldo regains master's touch in final flourish

FROM A SPECIAL CORRESPONDENT IN ORIANDO, FLORIDA

NICK FALDO produced one of the most spectacular recoveries in his 20 years as a tournament professional to protect his position in the opening round of the Bay Hill invitational tournament here

After three-putting the 17th green, Faldo trudged dejectedly to the last tee and was hornified when he blocked his drive into heavy rough to set up a treacherous approach shot 200 yards over water and

on to a narrow green.
Faido was delighted to post a one-under-par 71 after a superb six-iron cleared the hazard, hit the putting surface and the severe contours of the green fed the ball to within 15 feet of the hole before he coaxed home the putt for a

The result was a bit special," Faido, who trailed the early leader Paul Stankowski, of the United States, by four strokes, said, "It was a dangerous shot and it's always nice when you pull it off. It gets even better when you hole the

The Masters champion was less eastatic about the rest of his game, though. He was seen to be closing the club face at the top of his backswing on several occasions and it cost him his customary accuracy.
"I have had problems with

my take-away throughout my career and I pulled a few shots out there. So it's back to the practice range to try to sort it

Faido also had problems with the shortest club in his bag, often leaving his putts short of the target - an affliction that caused him to squander his best chance of winning the US Open in 1988. He said: I left three of them short right in the jaws of the hole and that doesn't win tournaments. I didn't hit the putts hard enough all

He is a grinder, though, and began his round by recording seven successive pars, getting up and down from bunkers at the first two holes, before collecting his first birdie at the 8th after hitting a fine threeiron to within four feet of the pin. He pulled his next drive into the rough, though, and then found a bunker before leaving a six-foot putt short of the target.

Faldo was so disgusted that after holing out, he kicked his ball back into the sand trap. He made birdie at the next hole from 12 feet before his grandstand finish made all well with the world again. A 71 on Arnold Palmer's course is quite respectable and the 67year-old was given a hero's welcome back to competitive golf after undergoing prostate

It had all the trappings of a fairy-tale comeback when Palmer matched par at the first six holes, but he ruined the script by dropping six shots at the next three and

Nicholas off to the healthiest of starts

FROM PATRICIA DAVIES IN PHOENIX, ARIZONA

IN THE desert, not even mad dogs go out in the midday sun. but golfers are not paid to lie low and Laura Davies, the Englishwoman who is attempting to win the Standard Register Ping tournament at Moon Valley for the fourth year in a row, was scheduled to begin her defence at high noon yesterday.

Earlier in the day, on a soft desert morning, several of Davies's compatriots made encouraging starts. Alison Nicholas, despite the sort of stomach upset that is traditional for England cricketers birdies at her first two holes. ing the cut twice, too. Yester-

She started with a four at the day, looking relaxed and com-10th, a par-five of 530 yards. and followed that with a two at the 165-yard 11th, to be two shots behind Robin Walton, the early leader.

Walton, another who played the second nine first, has missed four cuts in her past five outings, but went out in 33, four under par. A redhead with green eyes, she was born in Boise, Idaho, but perhaps she owes the change in her luck in St Patrick's week to her Irish colouring.

Joanne Morley, the rookie Englishwoman from Cheshire, has experienced highs and lows since joining the US LPGA Tour, finishing fifth in

posed in a shirt of airforce blue, she sank a testing four-foot putt for her par at the 1st and holed from three feet for a birdie two at the 2nd. Judging her distances well,

Morley, who won her first tournament in Europe last season, had another birdie chance at the long 4th, but left her putt short, dead on line. She then missed the green by about two inches at the 5th, a treacherous par-three of 130 yards, over water. A delicate chip shaved the hole and a par-saving putt of two feet was dispatched without alarms.

That was a more difficult feat than it might sound, for of Morley's playing partners, ing this event in 1986 - but struggle.

had just missed from three feet, tamping down some of-fending bit of grass afterwards in an attempt to disguise the fact that her stroke had been mediocre and lacking in-

Zimmerman, who started with a double-bogey six after being plugged in a bunker, has the look of one who expects the worst and has not often been disappointed. A photographer snapping the group said that it was rumoured that she had notsmiled for three years and, even after a good shot, she looks like someone who has sworn allegiance to a sect that has taken a vow of misery. She

expects much this week. On a more cheerful note, Helen Dobson, from Lincolnshire, who has had her troubles in recent years, losing her game in a mass of technicalities, was one under par after seven holes. Now under the coaching wing of Lawrence Farmer, the professional at Moor Park, Dobson is beginning to look more like the player who took the amateur world by storm in 1989. She fiddles less and her scores are beginning to be less erratic. although the knack of making cuts is returning only gradual-ly. Dobson has made two out of five this season, an indica-

SNOOKER

O'Sullivan reaches last four

FROM PHIL YATES IN CO KILDARE

RONNIE O'SULLIVAN, who pinpoints his involvement in the invitation Benson and Hedges Irish Masters as a high priority assignment, became the first player through to the semi-finals of the event at Goffs here yesterday.

O'Sullivan. 21, who is attempting to capture his third title of the season, after prevailing at the Asian Classic and German Open, advanced with a 6-1 victory over John Higgins after a high quality

With strong family connections in the Cork area. O Sullivan, also 21, is extremely popular in these parts and he even toyed with the idea of playing for Ireland in the World Cup four months ago before eventually electing to represent England.

"I always get a really warm

welcome here and it is half the battle when the crowd are on your side," O'Sullivan said after a match that turned out to be a microcosm of his recent form — unstoppable at times, wholly ineffective at

Laying the foundation for success, O'Sullivan swiftly and stylishly established a 4-1 lead with breaks of 42, 40, 101, 121 and 69 while Higgins, edged by him at the corresponding stage of the world championship last year, strug-gled from the outset.

Yet, as he showed when beating Nigel Bond 6-5 in the previous round on Tuesday, right. In the next three frames, he aggregated only five points as Higgins levelled at 4-4. Higgins, the winner of the

O'Sullivan is susceptible to spells in which he can do little

European Open in Malta three weeks ago, also enjoyed a 28-17 advantage in the ninth frame: then O'Sullivan sparked back to life by stroking in a red from distance to launch a decisive break of 52

Runs of 45 and 35 then enabled O'Sullivan to comfortably win the tenth and thereby get the better of Higgins for the sixth time in 11 career

He will now play Stephen

Hendry or Jimmy White for a place in the final on Sunday. Despite the quality of his opposition, O'Sullivan was in confident mood. "I get frustrated with myself at times, but I always know that, if I do hit top form, I'll win the event," he said. "I am not worried about anyone

BOWLS

Hankin leads calm **England to victory**

TO THE bitter disappoint- a vital count of six towards the ment of the home supporters, England won the women's home international series for the third year running in Perth yesterday, when they exhibited greater composure under pressure than the more excitable Scots, and won the deciding encounter, 127-108

(David Rhys Jones writes). Doreen Hankin, from Egham, led the English charge, piling up the shots against Falkirk's Roberta Hutchison on one end rink. Sharon Rickman, Di Gray and Julie Thomas all played their parts, as Hankin returned a 30-14 scorecard.

Thornaby's Norma Shaw, who has won the English indoor singles title seven times, skipped her team to a 24-15 win on the other end rink, and was responsible for

end, which put paid to hopes

of a late Scottish recovery. Beryl Alderson skipped her rink to a 22-12 win over Jeanette Conlan and, although the other three English rinks lost, they kept their defeat within bounds.

The Scotland selectors, who had been criticised for leaving out some of their leading players, had been boping that a victory on home soil would vindicate them, but, at the end of the day, they missed the flair and experience that former world indoor singles champions such as Joyce Lindores and Jan Woodley

could have supplied. Earlier, a depleted Wales side that had failed to trouble England, and Scotland beat Ireland on four rinks and by 135 shots to 94.

ROWING

Leander take the leading role

By Mike Rosewell, rowing correspondent

STEVE REDGRAVE and Matthew Pinsent will be in the Leander first crew that will defend its title in the 71st Head of the River on Saturday. Their crew-mates will include Bobby Thatcher and James Cracknell, Britain's double. scullers in the Olympic Games last year, and Ben Hunt-Davis and Richard Hamilton from the Atlanta eight. The steersman will be Garry Herbert, the gold medal coxwain for the Searle brothers at the Barcelona Games, who also steered the

British eight in Atlanta. Leander, leading off the 420 crews, will be chased away by London University, who won the Kingston Head last week and have Rupert Obholzer, a bronze medal-winner in the coxless four in Atlanta, on board. Molesey, starting third, will be without the Searle brothers, who teamed up with Obholzer in Atlanta. Jonny is having a break and Greg is concentrating on sculling. The Molesey crew have been reshuffled and have gathered pace since their outing at the Reading Head.

Hunt-Davis will be rushing

to Henley after the Head as he

is also the coach to the Oxford women's Boat Race crew, who are trying to break a run of Cambridge success that stretches back to 1992. He has overseen a low-profile build-up while Cambridge have, as usual, competed regularly in open events. The Cambridge crew includes their president, Sarah Winckless, who has sixand-a-half Blues to her credit in various sports. There was talk of buoying

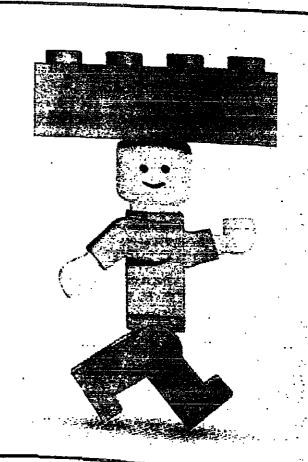
the Henley course for the

Sunday race to avoid the steering problems of recent years, but Hunt-Davis opposed the idea, perhaps because his president, and coxswain, is Abbie Chanman the cox of the Oxford men in 1995 and the women last year. CAMBRIDGE: Boer, E Grebnem. Elizabeth HS and St John's); 2, L I (Cevendish Road HS and Jesus) Watta (St Francis College and St.

"LEGOLAND. OPENS ON MARCH 21st. I'M OFF TO GET MY HAIR DONE!

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it not for an uncharacteristic blunder by Martin Offiah, an otherwise impressive London might have beaten St Helens last Sunday. David Krause starts at centre and Greg Barwick is switched to full back in place of Tony Martin. Offiah's unnecessary pass deep in his own half gifted St Helens a try and betrayed

IN BRIEF

Alleyne takes on role of captain

terday appointed captain of middle of the summer.

ment met Russell over two days before reaching a stalemate last night. Philip August, the cricket secretary, said: "Jack wanted certain conditions. These included a management role for three years and to be captain for

management condition but our constitution says that we can only appoint a captain for one season at a time. We told Jack but he wanted all the conditions met, which we could not do." Now Alleyne, 28, an all-rounder, has his chance to get Gloucestershire back on track after a miserable 1996.

Draw for seeds

Rugby union: Fears that England, Scotland and Ireland would have to engage in play-offs to decide their Rugby World Cup (RWC) seedings in 1999 have been allayed. The RWC organisers revealed yes-terday they had accepted a request by the three home unions that the seedings should be decided by a draw, which will take place in July. This will prevent the need for the teams to meet each other in addition to their five nations games next season.

Golf: Eurosport, which lost

Baulked

Billiards: Mike Russell, the world No I and world champion, sustained his first defeat for 14 months yesterday. Russell, from Peterborough, was beaten 4-3 by Nalin Patel, of India, in the quarter-finals of the Gold Flake Indian Open in Madras. His last reverse came at the hands of Roxton Chapman in the quarter-finals of the 1995 world championship in Bombay.

Back in action

RUGBY LEAGUE

Warrington youngsters have chance to impress

By CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

WARRINGTON are gambling heavily on youth for their Stones Super League match at home to London match, last Friday.

John Duffy, who cannot sign professional terms until his 17th birthday, in July, is the youngest player to make his debut for Warrington since Laurie Gilfedder, who went on to represent Great Britain five times, 40 years ago. Duffy takes over at scrum half from Willie Swann after only a handful of appearances for the

Duffy, who signed from the Wigan St Patrick's amateur club last season, was a surprise inclusion last night. Carl Roden, 17, was expected to make his senior debut at scrum half, but will now play at hooker, with Paul Hulme switched to the back row in place of Paul Sculthorpe, who failed a fitness test on a calf

If cutting out the so-called dead wood fails to elicit, at the very least, a more effective performance, it is difficult to see quite where Warrington can go. They are away to Sheffield and at home to Wigan in four days over

John Dorahy knows, too, that pressure is mounting on him as coach after the 58-20 defeat by Bradford and upset by Salford in the Challenge Cup the week before. "It's how we respond that is important," he said. "Situations like this make men of people and I have faith in my players. They have all had a kick up the backside and now we have to fight hard to put things right."

In the bizarre goings on at Warrington, lestyn Harris, the £1.35 million-rated Wales and Britain back, is again persona non grata at the club. A 48-hour suspension was extended indefinitely while a rt that Harris football match after withdrawing injured from the game against Bradford is investigated.

If the gamble on youth pays off, Warrington would have good reason to celebrate. Were

union. He will need to keep his 36 hours. He is flying to Wilderspool in one of Richard Branson's helicopters after collecting his MBE insignia at Buckingham Palace. He is then due in a Bedford union shirt at Rotherham tomorrow

Broncos tonight, with the inclusion of two newcomers, aged 16 and 17. The decision follows a clear-out of ten players, including three internationals, in response to their feeble display away to Bradford in their opening

signs of too much rugby wits about him over the next afternoon.

HOCKEY

ICE HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE (NHL): Detroit 4 Boston 1: New York Istanders 7 Florida 4: Montraal 5 New York Rangers 4: Philadel-phile 6 Toronto 5; Washington 2 New Jarsey 2 (OT): Delies 7 Phoento 2: Calgary 4 San Jose 2: Edmonton 3 Tempa Bay 1; Anshern 8 Los Angeles 2

ICE SKATING

MARK ALLEYNE was yes

Gloucestershire after talks be tween the county and Jack Russell, the England wicketkeeper, broke down. Alleyne takes over from Courtney Walsh, the West Indies fast bowler, who has Test commitments until the Gloucestershire's manage-

three years.
"We were happy with the

the rights to screen the European men's golf tour this season, has signed a four-year deal to cover the women's circuit. The 1998 and 2000 Solheim Cup matches are included in the contract and Terry Coates, chairman and chief executive of the American Express-sponsored tour. said that joining forces with Eurosport would "develop an exciting partnership".

Rugby union: The former captain. Philippe Saint-André, returns for the newlycrowned five nations champions France, in a muchchanged team to play Italy in

Grenoble tomorrow.
FRANCE: J-L Sadourry: S Ougler, Y Delaigue, F Bondouy, F Saint-Andle: D Aucigne, G Acocoberry: M de Rougemont, M Dalmisso, F Tournaire, A Costes, H Moorn, O Merle, P Benetron, F Pelous (capitam).

Slick Seville leaves US on starting blocks

A thletics in the United States is in a mess although, unlike in Britain, the mess is covered with a golden quilt. Its finances are parlous, its top executive is leaving, it has been losing sponsors and the number of meetings is falling.
If this sounds like the latest report on the state of affairs at the British Athletic Federation (BAF) it is no different at Track and Field

The obvious contrast is the gold-medal count from the past Olympic Games and world championships com-bined: US 25, Britain 1. But how much longer before the American quilt changes colour? The decision here yester-

Athletic Federation (IAAF) to award the 1999 world championships to Se-ville, and not to Stamford, did nothing to protect it. Seville will be the seventh

world championships and still the most successful trackand-field nation on earth has yet to host them. This will be the focal point for the revitalisation of American track and field." Nick Petredis, of the Stanford bid. said yesterday, before the verdies. Afterwards he reflected that the lack of "aggressive leadership" had been significant in Stamford's failure to secure the financial guarantees that Seville had put

David Powell on a crisis that put world championships out of American reach

The logical next question might be: why. if US athletics was unable to build from the platform of two Olympic Games in the past 13 years, might it have done so from one world championships? Petredis has the answer. "That is the reason Ollan Cassell lost the vote," Petredis said, referring to the decision of the USATF board in December not to renew his contract as executive director.

During Cassell's 31 years in office, US athletics has failed spectacularly to market itself.

Cassell's failure to get on with

president, only made things worse. "I see more beach volleyball on television than I do track meets." Petredis said. Athletics is not among the top 20 sports on American tele-vision and Casell must shoulder the blame. As one insider should free USATF like East German sports after the fall of the Berlin Wall." Stamford is likely now to challenge London as host for the 2001

hope to succeed.

"Cassell's departure under new leadership, will

Primo Nebiolo, the IAAF

have rejected close to \$500,000 (about £312,000) to leave before the vote to oust him, but efforts are being redoubled to pay him off before his contract is up next A forecast budget deficit for USATF this year of \$2 million has led to cutbacks and the

recent world indoor championships in Paris underlined deeper troubles. Such is media interest that Mary Slaney did not merit a story in the Los Angeles Times for her silver medal yet she is 38, from southern California and made world headlines in LA for her tangle of legs with Zola Budd at the 1984 Olympics. Such is the decline in track scholaremergence of a young sprinter worthy of borrowing Michael Johnson's blocks. No athlete from the US reached the 60 metres men's final in Paris. This from a country that has dominated world sprinting. The earning potential in American football, baseball and baskethall has left athletics like the garage beneath the

high-rise apartments.
The deterioration in US athletics is expected to show in the medal count in Seville. An \$8 million guarantee from the Andalucian authorities showed that what Spain lacks in medal-winners, it makes up for in political and commer cial leadership.

TENNIS

Henman's rise wins award from his peers

FROM ALIX RAMSAY IN KEY BISCAYNE, FLORIDA

IT IS the calm before the of the heap, however, she has storm - literally as it happens. With the distinct threat of rain on the way, the Lipton championships eased into some semblance of life yesterday as the first round, devoid of any seeds, hit the courts. The main contenders, including Tim Henman, were still recovering from the annual Association of Tennis Professionals (ATP) awards jamboree the night before, where the best of the best were honoured

tarts

ling role

by their own. For Henman, it was an eventful evening, winning the most improved player of the year award, as voted by the other players on the ATP Tour. After the efforts of last year, in which he took his ranking from No 99 to No 29 in the world and made more. than a few headlines along the way, he won the award ahead of Alex O'Brien, of the United

from Spain. Henman was in good company - former winners of the award include Pete Sampras. Michael Chang and Andre Agassi. Sampras collected the award for the player of the year for the fourth time in succession. Following in such exalted footsteps, it leaves Henman with much to live up to. It was the first time any British player had ever been mentioned in dispatches at the

annual ceremony. The equivalent award presented by the Women's Tennis Association for the most improved female player was won hands down by Martina Hingis. With one grand-slam title already in the bag and waiting, not necessarily patiently, in the wings to take over the No I ranking in ten days' time, there was really no

If Hingis is ready to take on Steffi Graf's mantle at the top yet to snatch the title of player of the year from the German. Like Sampras, Graf took that honour for the fourth year running. She was also a little startled to discover she had been voted the most exciting player of the year, by termis supporters, claiming she had always thought she was about as exciting as Todd Martin. The results of the voting may not have been much of a surprise, but the jokes were a new departure.

After such a night of success, it would appear that British tennis is ready to stand up and be noticed at last, but just when all appears to be well with the world, the Davis Cup looms large on the

In theory, Britain is one match away from a chance to qualify for the world group, but with Henman still to see if he can recanture the form he showed in January - and whether he has recovered from an elbow injury - and Greg Rusedski struggling with a wrist injury, suddenly the tie with Zimbabwe, at Crystal Palace in a formight's time, looks more daunting. Since he was forced to pull out of the San José final against Sampras last month, Rusedski has only managed to complete two matches, pulling out of the St Petersburg tournament

three days ago. Meanwhile, Byron Black, who will lead the Zimbabwe attack next month, eased into the second round here with a 6-2, 6-3 win over Andrea Gaudenzi, who helped Italy to a semi-final appointment with France in the Davis Cup last year. Suddenly, the plan of David Lloyd, the Britain coach, to put Britain back in the top division within three years is not looking so straightforward after all.



Ormond, aiming to reclaim his British team place, shows fine balance as he races to the national slalom title

Absence helps Ormond's challenge

IN TIGNES

JAMES ORMOND, who was dropped from the British ski team last year for underachieving, won the slalom title at the British national championships here yesterday by more than 22 sec. As he also leads the combined event at the halfway stage, he has enhanced his prospects of a recall when the selectors meet next month to choose the team for next season, when the Winter Olympics will be staged in Nagano, Japan.

"I proved I am capable of doing well," Ormond said. "It is clear that there is nobody ahead of me in the slalom.

though Alain Baxter is close. him to prepare, he finished Britain's best skiers have tra25th in the slalom. He rejoined Britain's best skiers have traditionally been downhillers so it is important to show that we can also be good technically." Ormand, 23, responded to his unexpected de-selection by giving up skiing for three

months and going to Australia. The break, everyone now agrees, did him the world of good and he returned to competition in North America more focused. He began to train with the Andorran team - his family is based in France - and set himself to qualify for the world championships in Sestriere last month.

That he duly did and, with the British coaches helping

.....

the Andorrans and came to Tignes with the express purpose of regaining his place in the team. "My aim is to ski for Britain in the Olympics." he

With a large foreign contingent also taking part in the races. Ormond had to settle for fifth place overall. Baxter was going well in the first leg yesterday when he straddled a gate near the finish and was disqualified.

Ormond leads the combined standings after finishing sixth in the downhill on Tuesday, his first downhill of the season. That race was won by Andrew Freshwater, who

the Britons vesterday but is confident of overtaking Ormond in the giant slalom and super giant. Emma Carrick-Anderson

won the women's sialom with ease, confirming her reputation as technically the best of the women. Having done so well in the world championships, though, she was disappointed not to beat the best of the non-British entries, Celine Dole, of France, who was faster by 0.51sec. Sophie Ormand, James's younger sister, was second.

RESULTS: Men's station: 1, J Ormond, 1min 33 90sec: 2, S Langmuir, 1:35 93, 3, J Moulder-Brown, 1:35.99. Women's station, 1, E. Cerrick-Anderson, 1:18.95, 2, S Ormond, 1.19.09, 3, S Robertson, 1:19 15

HOCKEY

Defeated England left in last place

FROM SYDNEY FRISKIN

Everything went right for England, who swept to a 2-0 goal by Crutchley. Australia responded in the

24th minute with a goal by Smith, who put the finishing touch to a shot by Davies. By half-time they were 3-2 ahead. Stacy having scored two goals. his first from a short corner. After the interval England pinned Australia in their own half for 25 minutes, but, tralia goalkeeper, prevented a The story of England's un-

Among the tireless workers in the England team were Garrard, in deep defence, Sharpe, in midfield, and Garcia. in attack, with Head and Crutchley lending solid sup-The round-robin match be-

tween Germany and Holland rehearsal for the final on Sunday; their positions are unassailable. Similary, Pakistan will meet Australia on consecutive days, the second time for the bronze medal. Today is a rest day.

PINGLAND: D Lockes J Walls, B Garrard, A Humphrey, W Waugh B Shaipe J Pickock J Lee S Head H Garba (captain), R Contently Substitutes used 'N Conway D Halt L Penin

BADMINTON BASILE: Swiss men's open chempion ship: Second round, Dong Jong (China) b P Friowles (Engl 15-10, 15-3 BASKETBALL NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA): Utah 113 Boston 100, Charlotte 90 Gleveland 72, Totonto 99 Detroit 97, New York 111 Philadelichia 100: Atlanta 107 Indiana 95; Marra 93 Golden State 91 (27): Minnesota 95 Vancouver 72, Los Angeles Cappers 108 Streamonto 98

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Shetheld 78 London Towers 79 **BILLIARDS** MADRAS, India: Gold Plake champion-ship: First round: R Chapman (Engl bt P Sheehan) (Engl 4-1; R Foldwan (Aus) bt I Malé (India) 4-0; C Shurt (Engl) bt A Sharnalya (India) 4-3; M Russel (Engl) bt A Jumpjurwale (India) 4-0; Second round: M

BOWLS

PERTH: Warner's home international indoor champonships, Scotland bit Wales 144-94 (Soutland stops first E McGarse bit Morgan 27-13.) Zontlan bit D Rowlands 20-18 H Hurchson bit J Achland 24-14. E Went diese with R Jones 19-19 A Christie bit A Daniton 25-14. J Sylves bit G Miles 29-18), England bit freland 131-103 (England skips stylves) Provisions 163-163 (England skips stylves) Provisions 163-163 (England skips stylves) 17-17 B Alserson bit B Welly 25-16. M Proc lost M Johnston 17-20 M Steele bit A McGunness 38-17), Wales bit Indiand (195-94 (Wales skips first B Morgan bit M Foaron 33-12 J Architect bit Multiplication 17-11 D (Rowlands lost to J Multipoliend 14-19 R Jones bit A McGunness 23-11), A Demon to 3-16 Margaret Johnston 17-23; G Miles or Wyles 25-18)

NAPIER Tour match tone-day Certail Distorts 5,7 M Snicke 67, C M Speatman 56, S 1 Jay-surge 5-37, Sn Lankans 228-4 (A Rantorigu 56 not out) Sn Lankans with by su enclicit. FOOTBALL

igenescley's late results Wadnesday's late results
EUROPEAN CUP, Quarter-finets, second
leg Als. (co Madrid 2 Ajas 3 (act, 1-1 affer
90 rm April 2014-30 or aggregate). Asseme
9 Borussia (sontrario 1 (Dormund vin 4-1
on aggle, anto) FC Porto 0 Manchester
United (in Marchester United vin 4-0 or
aggregate). Juventus 2 Resemborg 0
(Juventus vin 3 1 on aggregate)

read present the Tople House The r the translation from an institute at 1-1-11 L2. The total and the appeared Tople condition are hore to the pass were paint to the contract to the pass and as time man trace from those makingted.

Town 1.
UNIBOND LEAGUE: First division:
Droyleden 2 Gretna 2. President's Cupc
Senti-final, second lag: Farsley Celtro 1
Runcom 2 (Runcom win 2-1 on aggregate) Runcom 2 (Runcom wri 2-1 bri riggregate)
GILBERT LEAGUE OF WALES: Combran
& Abenstwyth 0 Cup: Semi-final, first leg:
Ton Pentre 3 Bary Town 1
AVON INSURANCE COMBINATION: First
division: Brighton 0 Swensea City D;
Bournemouth 1 Oxford United 2; parach
Town 5 Brustal Rovers 0; Millwell 1 Bristol
City 1, Norwich City 2 Tottenham Hotspur 3;
Southermon 2 Lution Town 0 League
Cup: Swindon Town 1 Carditt City 0
DONITIM'S 1 EAGUE Peremier division.

NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First division: Eastwood Hanley ? Traiford 1; WINSTONLEAD KENT LEAGUE: First Borough 2 SCREWTX DIRECT LEAGUE: Premier division, Bridpon 0 Chard Town 1; Westbury United G Calne Town 1

FOR THE RECORD UNITE SUSSEX COUNTY LEAGUE: First division: Three Bridges 1 Arundel 1.
FEDERATION BREWERY NORTHERN LEAGUE: First division: Tow Law Town 3 Comm Chicago. MINISTIVA SOLITH MIDLANDS LEAGUE: Premier division: London Colney 1 Million Keynes 2.

0. JEWISON EASTERN COUNTIES LEA-QUE: Premier diataion: Soham Town Rangert 2 Halsted Town 0, Stowmerket Town 2 Towner United 3; Wisbech Town 1 Warboys Town 0. JEWSON WESSEX LEAGUE: First di-vision: Christchurch 1 Cowes Sports 2.
BASS IRISH CUP: Quarter-finel replay: Colerane 0 Loughgal United 1
FA WOMEN'S PREMIER LEAGUE: National division: Arsenal 2 Croydon 1.
SCHOOLS MATCH: English Schools Snickers Under-19 Trophy: Quarter-finsk: Pamillers 6 Richard Challoner 4.
BATCENARYDNAL MATCH: Make 1 https://doi.org/10.1006/

NORTHERN COUNTIES EAST LEAGUE: Premier division: Shelfald & Decar About

INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Malta 1 Hun-INTERNATIONAL MATCH: Melta 1 Hungary 4 (in Valletta)
COPA LIBERTADORIES: Group one: Gueran (Para) 0 Criente Petrolero (Pa) 0. Group two: Velez Sartaled (Ag) 3 E1 Nacotoal (Ecu) 0 Group three: Mineroe Gusyama (Ven) 1 Universidad Catolica (Crale) 1. Group tour: Cruzeiro (Br) 2 Alianza (Penu) 0 Group five: Nacotoal (Uni) 2 Penarol (Uni) 0 Millionarios (Col) 2 Deportivo Cali (Col) 2.

LAUSANNEE World champloreships: Pairs: Final positions: 1, M Worzel and I Steuer (Ser) 1.5 tectored placements, 2, M Elisona and A Bushov (Russ) 3.0; 3.0 Kazakove and A Druitnev (Russ) 6.0; 4, K Ina and J Dungen (US) 6.5; 5, 5, Meno and T Send (US) 7.0; 8, K Sergears and K Whtz (Car) 10.0; 7, S Abittol and S Bernedis (Fr) 10 5; 8, D Zagovska and M Sudsk (Po) 13.5; 8, E Bereyra—a and A Shikarouldize (Russ) 13.5; 10, P Schwarz and M Multer (Ge) 14.5; 31, Xue Shen and Hongo Zheo (China) 16.0; 12, M Khatburtha and A Kroukov (Kaz) 16.0; L Rogers and M Akdred (GB) withdrew Injured. FIXTURES

RUGBY LEAGUE FOOTBALL Kick-ofi 7:30 unless staled Klick-off 7.30 unless stated Stones Super League Oldham v Bradford Peris Sant-Germain v Leeds (7.0) Warrington v London Nationwide League Second division

First division Dewsbury v Featherstone (7.45) Second division hire Lynx v Carlisle . OTHER SPORT

BASKETBALL: Budweiser League: Manchester v Birmingham (7:30): Chester v Trams: Valley (8:0). BOM/LS: English indoor champion of champions (al Bernbindge). GCLE: Summingicale Foursomes SNODIGE: Bernsom and Hedges Inish Masters (Co Klictare). SWMMMING: British grand prix meeting (at Cardiff).

RUGBY LEAGUE NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Pre misr division: Haworth 23 West Huli 6 RUGBY UNION WELSH LEAGUE: Second division; Cross Keys 46 Bonymaen 8.

SAILING BT GLOBAL CHALLENGE: Fourth leg: Letest positions: (Sydney to Cape Town, with moles to Cape Town, as at 13.50 GMT yestenday): 1, Group 4 3.421; 2, Concert 3.427, 3, Save The Children 3.437; 4, Global Teamwork, 3.438, 5, Toshiba Wave Wartier 3.445; 6, Commercial Union 2.478; 7, Motorole 3.484; 8, Time & Tide 3.532; 9, Cosan Rower 3,543; 10, Scom 3,561; 11, Courtaulpts International 3,567; 12, Pause To Remember 3,667, 13, Nuclear Electric 3,621, 14, Heath Insured # 3,840

SNOOKER GOFFS, Co Kilderer Beneon and Hedgel Irish Musters: Pirst round: S Davis (Eng) b K Doherty (Ire) 6-1 Quarter-final: R O'Sulli van (Eng) bt J Higgins (Scot) 6-4.

ANTWERP: Women's tournament: First round: M Martin (Aus) or H Van Hoom (Holi) 9-2, 9-3, 9-7; N Granger (SA) bi J Martin (Eng) 5-9, 10-8, 9-0, 9-1; C Motor (SA) bi J Hickey (Aus) 9-1, 9-5, 9-4, M Belt (Aus) bit Harners (Bell 9-4, 3-9, 10-8, 9-0; R Macree (Eng) bit C Castell's (Fr) 9-5, 9-1, 9-6; L Inving (Aus) bit S Macfie (Sort) 9-1, 5-9, 9-7, 9-2; R Crimtam (Aus) bit I Stoch's (Fr) 9-8, 3-9, 9-5, 9-6; J Transleld (Eng) w/o S Wright (Eng) sor

TENNIS ST PETERSBURG: Men's tournament: Second round: A Clement (Fi) w o G Ruseds (GB) acr, M Norman (See) bt D Prinos! (Gen) 1-8, 5-4, 5-3; R Furian (N) bt O Standychev (Bul) 7-5, 5-3; J Krostok (Slovakia) bt F Santoro (Fi) 3-6, 6-4, 6-3

POOLS DIVIDENDS LITTLEWOODS: Treble chance: 24ots 592,017.70; 23 £361.25; 22 £27.65; 21 £3.15. Helf-time: 23pta max £10.274. Four travers £18.45. Ten homes: \$190.50 Five aways: £13.90.

VERNONS: Troble change; 24pt 648,328,55; 23 5216 55; 22 535.80. ZETTERS: Trable chance: 34 pts 58,141 95; 23 532 65; 22 53 30; 21 50.45. Four draws: £10.20. Sight homes: £20.00 Four aways: £2, Super 7: £127.20.

Hightown ending on a low note WHAT a difference a year

makes. Last season Hightown

travelled to Doncaster need-

ing one point to clinch the Premiership title. Tomorrow the champions meet the Yorkshire club in a last-ditch struggle to avoid relegation (a Correspondent writes).
In fact, the Merseysiders' crisis is so serious that their player-coach, Maggie Souyave, who is also the England national coach, will almost certainly fly back from the junior home countries inter-

nationals in Dublin to play in

the match. With three games left in the league and only Doncaster and Trojans below them. Souvave acknowledges that their parlous position near the foot of the table is "dire". But they will still be struggling to field II players because of the unavailability of Kate Walsh and Kate Hendrick, their two England junior players, and the long-term injuries to Caro-line Gilbert, Helen Grant and Debbie Mills. "It's critical when you con-

sider the injury problems and

the absence of Lucy

Newcombe, who is complet-

ing her RAF officers' train-ing. Souyave said. "But

during the season we really

haven't performed. These are

changing times at the club

and it's been disruptive."

England2

IN KARACHI ENGLAND'S campaign in the five nation Golden Jubilee tournament ended here yesterday with a defeat by Australia. who wiped out a 2-0 deficit to win convincingly. The result consigned England to last place and put them out of the medal play-offs.

lead in 13 minutes with strong running and a quick interchange of positions. In the fifth minute Garcia scored with an angled shot from the right of the circle and eight minutes later an anack launched by Garrard, helped along by Head, ended in a

although several shots were aimed at goal by Conway. Crutchley and Waugh, the vigilance of Dreher, the Aus-

converted short corners continued, with five in the second half bearing no fruit, the shots being too weak to heat Dreher. A final thrust by Australia pushed England back in the last eight minutes. Stacy scored from a short corner and Elmer added the fifth, almost on the final whistle, from a pass by Lewis, who, in making the run, had the left flank all to

AUSTRALIA I, Diehei, O Spioule, M York, S Camultiers B Envernore (Telmer J Stacy (captern) P Lewis B Choppy S Daives M Smith Substitutes used M Brennan, J

Umpkes: C Sabrethi (Germany)

CRICKET

Sourieripator 2 Euron 1 Cardiff City 0
PONTIN'S LEAGUE Pregnier division:
Botton Wanderers 2 Nottingham Forest 1;
Leeds United & Oldham Athletic 1. First division: Ason Villa 2 Bleedpool 0 Pont Vala 2 Hoddersfield Town 1. Sunderland 2 Woherhampton Wanderers 0 Second division: Carlisle United 3 Rotherham United 1. Girmsby Town 2 Burnley 1, Hull City 0 Barnsley 2; Wredeam 4 Bradford City 1, York City 0 Manchester City 1. Third division: Derlington 1 Lincoln City 1; Denezater Rouers 2 Bury 0: Rochdale 0 Walsall 0: Scarborough 1 Chesterfield 1. Scunthorpe United 1 Creater City 2. ENDSLEIGH WSURANCE MIDLAND COMBINATION: Premier division: King's Health 4. Coventry Sphinx 1; Mer KA 3 Bolehall Swits 1
NORTH WEST COUNTIES LEAGUE: First

Third division
Colchester v Rochdale (7 45)
Doncester v Harelord
Gulbert LEAGUE OF WALES: Fire Town
v Coney
FAI HARP LASER NATIONAL LEAGUE:
Premier division: Dundolk v Shamrock
(7 45); SI Patrick's Ath v Cork (7 45);
Schools MATCH: English Snickers
Under-18 Trophy: Guarter-firet: Reinhern
Mark Crammar, Kerl v Colchester SFC (at
Gillingham) BASKETBALL

Luton v Brentlord (7.45) ...

Third division

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Menchester v Bo-mangheim (7.30); Chester v Thames Valley (8.0).

A gentleman and a player

It is too long since the England and West Indies cricket teams were led by captains who had the mark of men who could have succeeded at anything, but not so long that their names are forgotten: Mike Brearley and Clive Lloyd. Lloyd is Trevor McDonald's interviewee in this expellent social topically and what make I loud like Brearless.

this excellent series tonight and what makes Lloyd (like Brearley) interesting as a man is that the qualities he brought to leading a cricket team were developed far beyond the game's boundaries, so to speak. Lloyd is fascinating on his background and on those who inspired him, from Shakespeare to Martin Luther King and Nelson Mandela He is also interesting on the future of cricket.

Lumiere's Children - Man with a Movie Camera. Rudio 4.

I have not been able to hear a sample of this series but it promises to be essential listening for cinema buffs. The series is an exploration.

by Christopher Cook, of the way cinema has fused art and technology over the past 100 years. The first programme includes the recollections of Madame Rence Bamberger, god-daughter of Louis

Lumière, one of the brothers who not only invented the first cine

camera but also made early newsreels and what is regarded as the

first movie, La Sortie des Usines Lumière. The series has interviews

with a number of leading film makers and pioneers, including

Mandela. He is also interesting on the future of cricket.

Paying the price for ifs with too many buts

noon. I was really looking forward to the match. "Y a-t'il un match de football quelque part ce soir?" I practised saying in an eager tone, as the spanky new airport bus from Nice sped east in bright sun along the high coast road of the Riviera. "A quelle heure commence le

Louis II Stadium be-

low in the town, I gave a little squeal, and 'Jaw-dropping pointed it out to some disaster for Newcastle supporters. "The, er, Stade!" I said. Now that I re-Newcastle' member it, those poor black-and-white-clad

saps were pretty excited about it, too. Reckon they're in for a bit of a culture shock, like," one of my companions suggested, meaning the invasion of irrepressible Geordies who would spend their afternoon at leisure in the Principality ordering beers in high multiples (That's not for all of us, mind; that's each!"). baring their NUFC tatoos for the local papers and standing hilariously at hairpin bends in Monte Carlo making "Nyow! Nyow!" noises at passing cars. Little did any of us suspect that Monaco would later ignominiously cut through Newcastle like bullets through a cream

MOST sports are about war.

Most dances are about sex,

and that counts double for the

tango. Why? Look at Marika

Humphreys. You'd think she

was a nice, ordinary. if

noticeably pretty English girl.

But then the music started.

and she was snarling with

unrestrained lust at her part-

ner. Philip Askew, as if she

were in two minds as to

whether to devour him or

Perhaps it is true, what they

say about bald men. And then

the music stopped. And she

was quite all right again. The

most recent British assault on

the world ice dancing champ-

ionship was going strong. This was the original dance

section of the competition; the

medals will be awarded after

the free programme, tonight.

alas, for all those curled and

glossed lips, and those white,

bared teeth. She and Phil are

down with the dead men after collecting 4.8s in a sport in

which Brits had once known

nothing but sixes. The nation

that produced Torvill and

Dean stands sixteenth out of

29 starters in the competition.

And Marika won't get one,

disembowel him.

Pitiful to recollect it now, of course, but, on Tuesday after-rebound all at once, and travel quite forcibly in the opposite direction.

If only Newcastle had redeemed themselves by a single goal, or a single stroke of genius, or a couple of decent passes. If only Ginola had not fallen over so often. If only Beardsley had not given the ball away. Nobody wants to travel hundreds of miles at great expense and be made to look Spotting the elegant arches of the like jerks, but that is pretty much

what happened on Tuesday. This match was a jaw-dropping disaster for Newcastle, the second half being about as much a treat for the eyes as removing a plaster from your eyelids.

Monaco looked like greyhounds; Newcastle were just doggy. Insatiable, Benarbia travaille un

coup-franc qui hypnotise Hislop," a joyous Nice-Matin reported next day. L'Equipe rubbed it in, too - "3-0, cette fois la demi-finale est dans la

Dans la poche - funny how certain phrases translate, and other idioms come as a surprise. But is the word for goal in French, and there is even a newspaper called But! le

ICE SKATING

Aspiring Britons

still lusting

in the shadows

FROM SIMON BARNES IN LAUSANNE This is still pretty good, and

they skated with verve and charm as well as lust, but, all

the same, they do not look like

the legitimate heirs to the T&D

lie Chaplin routine. After them

came Sharon Jones and Paul

Askham. Finishing ninth in

the world was no disgrace, but

nobody could ever forgive

tradition of excellence has,

somehow, gone down the plughole. Well, it must have

been hard to write first dra-

mas after Shakespeare had

So the chance to establish a

them for not being T&D.

Several couples have sought

tradition. What went wrong?

However, I did not know this on Tuesday night, when the word inexplicably appeared on the scoreboard LYNNE TRUSS



Kicking and Screaming

in big letters after Legwinski's opener. In this bare form, it provided a cruel ray of hope. The ball went soaring in, the crowd yelled and danced, and then the word BUT appeared, looking for all the world ce an enormous quibble.

"But?" I asked, holding my breath. "But what? But he was offside? But we really should go back and take that again because you obviously weren't ready? But nothing, as it turned out. Just BUT!

The Newcastle supporters' good spirits will return in time, of course, but I will never forget hearing one of them articulate beautifully his burt a) Guited that you lost, b) But ever so feelings after the match, in halting, regretful franglais. "You, vous, Motolose, though, didn't you? and d) It'll naco -- tres good," he told a gratified passer-by. "We, Newcastle -- shite."

So it was a surreal day, all in all; and, just as every Newcastle traveller will remember March 18 with a mixture of emotions, so will I. Having never seen Newcastle in the flesh before. I now found myself not only in the same stadium as the hour, my face ached. When poor famous squad, but sitting not a phrase-

book's toss from Les 'None of my Ferdinand and Alan Shearer. Gosh! heroes gave How extraordinary to reflect that, a year me a glance' ago, I had never heard of Shearer, or his

equally famous dicky groin, while now I excitedly pick him out by recognising the back of his head. "That's Shearer!" I told a surprised sophisticate from The Herald Tribune's Paris office, pointing to where the great No 9 sat several rows in front. I was entranced.

So, on top of all the other disappointments, just my luck that it was Monaco's night. Twice I had the opportunity to catch Shearer's eye and give him a jolly smile of recognition, but twice I felt like a village idiot waving at a funeral. Unfortunately, the proper facial expression just does not exist to convey:

to lose, though, didn't you? and d) It'll all look better in the morning.

Shamelessly, I hung around at the players' exit, experimenting with rueful grimaces and sympathetic nods, but finally gave up because none of my heroes gave me a glance; and, besides, having tried to get Chris Waddle's attention for at least half an

Darren Peacock glided past, like a ghost, l decided: "No, they've suffered enough, without this," and, not before time, I also recollected Robert Crampton's Times piece about Eric

Cantona last Saturday, in which he described "loserish" middle-aged women waiting at gates to see footballers. Lumme. Loserish. Mondieu. Cest moi!

Next morning, on Monte Carlo TV, anyone expecting to see endless replays of the match found instead a half-hour commercial for a range of microwave accessories - so nobody should imagine that Monaco was big-headed or gloaty, or anything

other than sportive. My main worry was for that poor Newcastle supporter sorrowfully shaking hands with strangers under the Monaco moon.

8.50pm.

7,00mm Mark Radcliffe 9,00 Sirron Mayo 12,00 Jo Whiley 2,00pm Nicky Campbell 4,00 Kevin Greening 6,15 Newsbeat 7,00 Peter Yong: Essential Selection, featuring the best new dance music 10,00 One in the Jungle 12,00 Radio I Rap Show with Tim Westwood 2,00mm Charlie Newton. m Charlie Jordan

RADIO 1

Paths of Inspiration. Radio 2, 7.00pm.

RADIO 2 6.00est Sarah Kennedy 7.30 Wake Up to Wogan 9.30 Ken Bruce 11.30 January to viogan state ten brices 1120 sensity young 1,30pm Debbie Thrower 3,00 Ed Stewart 5,05 Paul Heiney 7,00 Paths of Inspiration, See Choice (3/5) 7,30 Friday Inspiration. Sea Choice (2/5) 7-30 minus hight is Music Night from the Hippo-drome in Golders Green, London. Featuring the BBC Concert Orchestra under Benry Wordsworth 8-45 Rumpole for the Delence, With Leo McKern (6/6) 9,00 Listen to the Bend 10,00 Mevis Nicholson 12,05mm Jon Briggs

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am World Sevens. Includes at \$.45 Wake Up to Money 6.00 The Breaidast Programme 9.00 The Megazine 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.00pm Ruscoe on Five 4.00 Nationwide 7.00 Natus Edita 7.35 Alen Green's Sportstalk 8.30 Friday Sport. Robin Baley introduces coverage of Luton Town v. Breaford in Division Two and the Super League game between Warrington and London 10.00 Paper Talk 11.00 News Edita with David McNeil 12.00 Alter Hours 2.00am Up All Night with Richard Dallyn

TALK RADIO

5.00em Chris Ashley and Sandy Wair 7.08 Paul Ross 9.00 Scott Chrisholm 12.00 Lorraine Kelly 2.00em Torrnty Boyd 4.00 Drivetime, with Peter Deeley 7.00 Moz Dee's Sportscone 10.00 Mike. Allen 1.00em lan Collins

6.00am On Air, with Penry Gore. Includes Mozart (Serenade in D, K203); Heinichen (Concerto in F); D'Indy (Sutte

(Cychnes): Jeerlam (Overture-Suite in C)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Peter Hobday. Includes Pourenc (Suite Française). Beethoven (Elegischer Gesang, Op 118); Bach (Cychner Varietings

(Goldberg Variations,

Concerto No 6 in G); Parta (Wind Quintet in E flat); Vivaldi (Concerto No 6 in G); Falla, arr Heitetz (Sutte Populaire Fspannole); Telemann

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. News on the hour.
5.30em.-Europe Today, 6.30 Europe
Today, 7.15 Red Dward (7/12) 7.30 The
Missionaries 8.10 Words of Fash 8.15
Music Review 8.45 Soundbyte 9.05
World Business Report 9.15 Focus on
Fath 9.45 Sport 10.30 SBC Engish
10.45 Red Dward (7/12) 11.39 Menden
Books 12.05pm Business 12.15 Britain
Today 12.30 Science in Action 2.05
Outlook 2.30 Mutitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15
Soundbyte 3.30 Mutitrack 3.05 Sport 3.15
World Today 4.20 SBC Engish 4.45
Britain Today 5.30 World Business
7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Fash 7.30
Mutitrack 9.05 World Business Report
9.15 Britain Today 9.30 People and 9.15 British Today 9.30 People and Points 10.30 The New Europe 10.45 Sport 11.10 Spotlight 11.15 Insider's Guide 11.25 Book Choice 11.39 Multitrack 12.30am Seven Days 12.45 Britain Today 1.30 Outlook 1.55 Words of Faith 2.30 Science fr Action 3.15 Sport 3.30 Meridian Live 4.30 Jazz Now and Their 4.45 Seven Cays

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.06 Miles Read 9.00 Henry Nelly 12.00 Susannah Sinons 2.00pm Concerto. Chausson (Concerto for Violin, Pario and Sinog Custlet) 3.00 Jamie Crick 7.00 Classic Newtringin 7.30 Soniata Rossini (Sinog Soneta No 6 in D major) 8.00 Evening Concert. Tchaikovsky (Romeo and Jo-liet); Grieg (Plano Concerto in A minor Op 16); Besthoven (Symphony No 3 in E 16); Beethoven (Symphony No 3 in E major Op 55) 10.00 Michael Mapon:

VIRGIN RADIO 6,00mm Russ 'n' John 10,00 Graham Done 1.00pm Jeremy Clark 4.00 Nicky Home 7.00, Paul Coge (198) Robin Banks (AM) 10.90 Alan Freeman 12.00 Mark Forrest 2.00mm Howard Pearce

music by Pürcell, Eccles and Blow (4/4) (r)
3.00 Mining the Archive. A recording from 1970 of the ceflist Pierre Fourier Includes Bech (Suite No 3 in C. 849/1009); Schubert (Pierro Trio in E fist, D898); Dvořák (Celio Concerto in 6 minor)

rainor)
5.00 Music Machine, with Tommy
Peasson
5.15 in Turne, with Jeremy
Nicholas Includes Herbert
(American Faritasy);
Peasthment Can Mathematican

Beethoven (Ten National Airs with Variations, Op 107); Mozart (Vorrei Spiegarvi, ch

in F minor)

9.50 Paperback Writers. Andy Martin sets out to discover the legacy of the 1960s (5/5)

10.15 Hear and Now, Music from

(Gotolery Variation as (Gotolery Variation as (Gotolery Variation as (Gotolery Service) (Les Boreades); Fauré (Les Boreades); Fauré (Les Dinns); Mozart (Piano Sonafa in D., K576); Dutilieux (Deur; Sonnets de Jean Cassou); Tchalkovsky (Violin Concerto in D); Poulenc (Gioria)

12.00 Composer of the Weelc: Henry Cowell

1.00pm News; Chamber Missichen Manchester. Live from Studio Seven, introduced by Rodney Stafford, Peter Lawson, plano. Jonathen Harvey (Tornesu de Messieen); Dallapiccola (Chambers Manchester) American Ballads) Work, Rests and Play Players and staff of the BBC Symphony Orchestra reveal what they love and loathe about orchestral file, Includes

Mendelssohn (Overturs: The Hebrides, Fingal's Cave) Music Restored. Women in Early Music. With Anthony Booles, little and Stanker Rooley, lute, and Evelyn Tubb, soprano. Includes

Mozart (Yorrei Spiegarvi, ch Diol)

7,45 Utater Onchestra, under Dmitri Sifkovetsky, with Ilya Kaler, violin, live from the Ulster Hall, Belfast, Barber (Adagio for Strings); Bernstein (Serenade) 8.30 Insh Stories: Men and Angels, by Anne Enright 8.50 Concert, part 2 Tchaikovsky (Symphony No 4 in F minor)

the 1960s. Anbihony Payne, the shout the impact that composers such as Ligeti, Lutoslawski, Lutyens and Maxwell Davies (3/4)

Maxwell Davies (3/4)

12.15am Composers of the Weelc Campra, Clérambatuit and Mortéclair (f)

1.00 Through the Night, with Donald Macleod. Includes Mendelssohn (Elijeh); Handel (Water Music Suite No 1 in F); Bach (Orchestral Suite No 3 in D, BWV1068); Handel (Concerto grosso No 6 in D)

Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the Lords; Robin Cook, MP, Shadow Foreign Secretary; Emma Nicholson, MP, Liberal Democrat Spokesperson on Oversess Development and Human Richts: and Andrew

Human Rights, and Andrew Marr, Editor of The

independent 8.50 Lumiere's Children See

9.15 Letter from America, by Alistair Cooke 9.30 Kateldoscope Feature: Salve Regina. Richard Coles examines the history of the encluring planeager airlichon

examines the history of the enduring plainsong aritiphon and frow it reflects changing attitudes (r)

10.00 The World Tonight, with

Robin Lusting 10.45 Book at Bedtime: The Duel,

5.55am Shipping (LW) 6.00
News 6.10 Farming Today
6.25 Prayer for the Day 6.30
Today, includes Thought for
the Day 8.40 Yesterday in
Parliament
9.00 News 9.05 Decert Island
Discs. Sue Lawley talks to
the interior designer Nina
Campbell (r)
9.45 Feedback, with Chris
Durkley reveals more ideas for things to do this weekend
7.00 News 7.05 The Archers
7.20 Pick of the Week. Chris Serie presents his selection of extracts from BBC radio over the past seven days. extracts from HBC ractio over the past seven days.

8.65 Any Questions? Jonathan
Dimbleby chairs the topical debate from Burghfield Common, near Reading. With Viscount Cranborne, Lord Privy Seal and Leader of the

10.00 News; Messages to Myself (FM). June Barrie reads extracts from the diary of Inga

10.00 An Act of Worship (LW)
10.15 On This Day (LW)
10.30 Women's Hour, introduced
by Sylvia Hom
11.30 The Natural History
Programme
12.00 News; You and Yours, with
Mark Whittaker
12.25pm Food Programme, with
Derek Cooper 12.55 Weather
1.00 The World at One, with Nick
Clarke

1.40 The Archers (r) 1.55

Shipping Forecast 2.00 Classic Serial: The Barchester Chronic Barchester Chronicles, by Anthony Trolope. With Rosemary Leach and John Carlisle (2/3) (r) 3.00 News; The Afternoon Shirt 4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Tim Marlow looks at the works of the sathrical German artist George Gross as an

artist George Grosz as an exhibition opens at the Royal Academy in London Academy in London 4.45 Short Story: In for a Penny, by Lawrence Block, Read by Bob Sherman 5 00 DM s En Ct. 5.00 PM S.50 Shipping Forecast

5.55 Weather 6.00 Stx O'Clock News 6.30 Going Places. David Stafford

by Joseph Corrad. Read by Stephen Boxer (5/5) 11.00 Week Ending. A look at the week's events with Sally Grace and the corredy revue team team 11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick 11.25 Tea Junction, with Patrick Harnan and guests 11.45 Today in Parliament 12.00 News 12.30am The Late Book: The Hobbit, by J.R.H. Tolkien. Read by Michael Hordem (15/15) 12.48 Shipping Forecast 1.00 As World Service

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1. FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2. FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3. FM 90.2-92.4. RADIO 4. FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM. FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO: FM radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Ian Hughes, Rosemary Smith, Susan Thomson, Jane Gregory and John McNamers.



Gritschuk and Platov perform their relatively tender routine in Lausanne yesterday

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CHANGING TIMES

able to follow Milton with another blank verse epic. Perhaps the truly great somehow use up their chosen medium. at least for those around Certainly the shadow of

done his stuff and no one was

to follow Torvill and Dean and some made a good fist of it. Torvill and Dean is dense and certainly no British ice dancer Karen Barber and Nicky Slater finished fifth in the seems able to emerge from it. Torvill and Dean were, in world with a delightful Chartheir way, great artists con-demned to a rather ludicrous medium. If James Joyce had Carlo Fassi, the Italian coach who inspired John Curry been committed to writing only cowboy stories, he would and Robin Cousins to Olympic titles, has died in hospital have written cowboy stories of genius, but they wouldn't have after suffering a heart attack in Lausanne, aged 67. Fassi been Ulysses. was coach to Nicole Bobek,

And so, at the opposite end trum, the couples smiled lustfully in the direction of the crown that Torvill and Dean once wore. Enflamed with simulated lechery, they went to war in sequins and nudecoloured nylon, each couple determined to outsex the rest. We wanted a fair fight, no messing about below the belt, and may the most lascivious

woman win. Russia seems to do a good line in lascivious women. The great Russian tradition of ice dance — or ice anything for that matter — shows no sign of dying out. Perhaps because it was never dominated by a

single act. Three Russian couples took the ice, each one more enotically charged than the one before. Three and a half hours of wallto-wail female sexual aggression reached its climax, if that is quite the word I'm looking for, with Oksana Gritschuk

and Evgeny Platov. This is the top Russian pair and I predict that they will win the championship tonight. I am not alone in this; so does evervone else in Lausanne.

They bagged a perfect six from one judge yesterday, the first ice dance couple to do so at the world championships since Isabelle and Paul Duchesnay the love 'em or hate 'em French-Canadian pair, in 1991. Torvill and Dean got nine sixes for artistic impression at the world cham-

pionships of 1984. G&P, if I may call them that, will get more tomorrow, I fancy. They cleverly rang the changes on the tango clichés. Gritschuk, a platinum blonde of some presence, was dressed in scarlet, skirt slashed from hem up to the fifth rib. But she played it more submissive

WORD-WATCHING

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE l Qh5! g6 (1 ... h6 2 Qxe6+ wins) 2 Qxh7+! Rxh7 3 Rxe8+ Kg7 4 Rle7+ Kh6 5 Rxh7 checkmate than the rest. Lust, she implied is for wimps, tenderness is another matter altogether.

Russian couples finished first, second and seventh, which shows the viability of a tradition of excellence and underlines the way that British ice dance somehow failed to establish one.

Afterwards, Gritschuk

quite irresistible. But then, the whole sport is a bit like that. Standings, page 45

pouted prettily at the press

with her classically bee-stung

lips and hoped for still better

things tonight. She is able to

project all about her an air of

complete silliness, something

that is, at least for the moment,

SNOW REPORTS

	[
Answers from page 43	
CHERIMOYA	Depth Weather
(c) A small tree (Anona Cherimolia), a native of Peru, with sweet-	(cm) Conditions Runs to (5pm) Last L U Piste Off/o resort "C snow
scented, greenish flowers. Also the pulpy fruit of this tree, highly esteemed on account of its delicious flavour. It is of considerable	L U Piste Ott/p resort "C snow
size, irregularly heart-shaped, with a scaly exterior. An	ANDORRA
Anglicised form of the Quichua name. Expect to meet them in	Soldeu 20 140 fair vaned poor sun 9 15/2 (Highest runs still alc lawer slopes warn)
your supermarket any day.	AUSTRIA
CHITTARONE	Obergurgi 50 170 good powder good snow -3 20/2
(c) An instrument of the guitar kind, but strung with wire, and	(Superb skiing with Iresh powder, no queues)
played with a plectrum or quill. Much used in the 16th and 17th	St Anlon 40 260 powder powder good snow 2 20/3 (50cm tresh powder tantastic skiling)
centuries. Spelt variously, but derived from the Latin cithara. Commonly kept in barbers' shops for the use of the customers. It	FRANCE
had often a grotesquely carved head. The Tyrolean form of the	Avoriaz 140 160 good powder good cloud 0 19/3
instrument, which came into fashion in England in the 19th	(Wanderful pointer skiling in 50cm new snaw) Flaine 70 230 powder powder good fair -5 19/3
century, is distinguished as the zither.	(Deep powder everywhere: tabulous skiing)
CHITTERLING	La Plagne 130 210 good powder tair cloud -3 19/3
(b) The smaller intestines of beasts, as of the pig, especially as an	(Pistes much improved by new snow: great skiing) Tignes 140 200 good powder good sun 6 20/3
article of food prepared by frying or boiling. Sometimes tilled with mincement or forcement, as a kind of sausage. Of Teutonic	(Excellent conditions both on and off piste)
origins, such as the German kutteln chawdrons. "His warped	Val d'Isère 100 210 good powder good fair 4 20/3 (Fantastic powder skring everywhere)
Ear hung o'er the Strings./ Which was but Souce to	TALY
Chitterlings."	Cervinta 50 320 good powder tair fine 3 19/3
СНОСНО	(Great skiing on nearly all runs: windy at allitude) Liviono 60 170 good crusty lair wind -2 19/3
(a) Name in the British West Indies of a encurbitaceous plant	(Good skiing generally but some wind-exposed hard spots).
(Sechium edule), cultivated for its wholesome succulent fruit. The native name in Brazil, but elsewhere, alias. "From Madeira its	SWITZERLAND
fruits are sometimes sold in Covent Garden Market under the	Klosters 15 210 good powder good snow 2 20/3
name of Chayotes."	Mürren 50 120 good powder good fair 0 20/3
- <u>-</u>	(Great skiing everywhere thanks to plenty of new snow)
SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE	Wengen 5 80 good powder fair snow 1 20/3 (Wonderful conditions on all but lowest runs)

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

There is the Roll Harris view

then there is Hugh Fearn-ley-Whittingstall's. For while Har-

ris offers us umpteen variations on cuddly little chap, isn't he?" in

Animal Hospital, F-W's interest

can be boiled down to one simple

As regular readers may recall,

when F-W goes eel-fishing I am

never far behind. I can't recall a television event that left quite the

same impression as last year's lesson in skinning an eel. For

this." he began brightly, "you need

a stout post, a four-inch nail and a

pair of pliers." It made Michael

Palin's famous difficulty with

snake soup (first choose your very

much alive snake) look like

Last night, F-W, now on board

the good ship Bain Marie, went

eel-fishing again. I packed my tool

kit. As it turned out, however, I

needn't have bothered because in

another episode of Rick Stein.

question: "Can you eat it?"

of the animal kingdom and

banks

20%

purchase

rd Life umpany

ecting

SKY NEWS

SKY MOVIES

And Bridge of The U.S.

Mass Lettle Girl in the World (1987) 855315) 2.00 Memories of Me (1985) (837570) 3.50 A Walton Wedding (1985) (836841) 5.25 The Tuskegee Almen (1985) (75707327) 8.00 Street Fighter (1985) (43686) 10.00 Harrison: Cry of the Chy Joseph (43686) 10.00 Harrison: Cry of the 78y (1995) (765686) 11.40 Cobb (1994) 59826150) 1.50am Geronton: An American Logard (1994) (967532) 3.45 Out of (4353999) 9.00 Lise LIS PGA Golf Bey Hill (4356975) 11.00-1.00em European PGA Golf (3949711) SKY SPORTS 3

12.00 Live International Crickel (68279889)
3.30pm Spanish Football (53264082) 4.30
Schoolboy Football (87417808) 5.30
Snowtboard Snow (8348066) 6.00 World
Surfing Champornetips (5296421) 7.00
Live Finday Night Football (92186889)
10.06-12.00 Wresting Raw (33974421) THE MOVIE CHANNEL 6.00em I Walked with a Zombie (1943) (9341266) 7.10 Mademotistic Fill (1944) (9347266) 7.10 Mademotistic Fill (1944) (934726) 8.20 Where the Red Fern (934726) 8.20 Where the Red Fern (934726) 8.20 Where the Red Fern (1941) [5536312] 10.00 The World in the Asset Madem (19472) The World in His Arms (1982) (12792) 12.00 Vergeence of She (1987) (72537)

Hugh's all-consuming interest in wildlife this instalment of A Cook on the Wild Side (Channel 4) he was going elver fishing, for the tiny little baby cels that creep along the River Severn under cover of darkness. "Wriggly little chaps." Har-ris would have said had he been there, wrinkling his nose for full soppy effect. F-W was there and we knew what he was thinking.

Suddenly, the Surgasso Sea seemed an awfully long way away. Now at this point I was totally relaxed. Elvers were obviously far too small to need skinning. I put the pliers away and settled down to enjoy the comic banter of Hartley Everett. West Country eel-catcher extraordinaire. Elvers got more cumning as they grew longer, see: Ten per cent longer, 10 per cent cleverer, [there was a long, West Country pausel than a cabbage".

And with that it was nearly time

for breakfast. The elvers in Hartley's bucket wriggled prettily in anticipation - breakfast, yum-

6.00am Open University: Reflections on a Global Screen (7986518) 6.25 Reading the Landscape (3817470) 7.15 News 7.30 Wacky Races (i) (8653315) 7.55

The Reality Wild Show (r) (T) (3033889) 8.20 Just So Stores (r) (7422266) 8.35 The Record (5619773) 9.00 The French Expenence (5967808) 9.15 The Biology Collection (165860) 9.45 Watch (7734131) 10.00 Playdays (18315) 10.30

Hotch Polch House (2048773) 10.50

Cosmo and Dibs in Punjabi and English (5912334) 11.00 Look and Read (9948112) 11.20 Short Circuit (9831860) 11.40 English Time (9719334) 12.00

English File (36860) 12.30pm Working

Lunch (63402) 1.00 Scene (55334) 1.30 Le Club (83181860) 1.45 Words and

Pictures (83186315) 2.00 Just So Stories (36718044) 2.10 Sport on Friday. Helen

Rollason introduces coverage of the

Figure Skating Championships (576957) 3.55 News (T) 4.00 Today's the Day (976) 4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook (860) 5.00

Marge and Homer Simpson (6.00pm)

the saxophone to express her sadness (T) (224179)

6.00 The Simpsons Lisa is shown how to use

7.10 Pole to Pole Michael Palin arrives in

8.00 Birding with Bill Oddle on the island of

6.30 Gardeners' World in the first of four reports from South

9.00 Attack of the 50ft Woman (1994) with

Daryl Hannah. A tongue-in-cheek remake of the 1950s cult sci-fi film. A

Islay, where there are thousands of wild

geese; plus: how to attract birds to the

Africa, Roy Lancaster surveys Cape Province's wild flowers (T) (6150)

long-suttering housewite, out searching for her philandering husband, is con-

fronted by a UFO. She begins to grow at

an alarming rate, taking revenge on all and sundry Directed by Christopher

The climax of the ice dance competition

6.25 Star Trek (r) (221353)

garden (4315)

Guest (T) (3421)

10.30 Newsnight (T) (586650)

Topo (3980700)

12.05am This Life (r) (T) (8836464)

English subtitles (83919)

10.28 Shapes of the Invisible (342860)

11.25 World Figure Skating Championships

12.50 Stuff the White Rabbit Last in senes

1.20 Forbidden: Christopher Frayling on El

Ethiopia (r) (1) (228119)

Esther (T) (8131)

5.30 Going, Going, Gone (112)

my. He was going to cook them an allegedly traditional way, with slices of Old Spot bacon and a goose egg, while F-W was showing off with something involving garlie, chilli flakes and rock salt. But first they had to get rid of the "vomp", a sort of slime that keeps elvers ... well, slimy. This was achieved, very gently, with a teatowel. The elvers wriggled in grateful delight. "Ooh, much better, no more nasty vomp." And with that Hartley and Hugh dumped them in two very hot frying pans . . . alive.

Really, where was Rolf Har-ris when we needed him? Would be get the frying pan to the vets in time? Would he hover in the operating theatre, whispering "baby cels brought in with nasty, first-degree burns"? Would he utter the dread "it's not looking very good", or bounce back to his recovery room best with: **REVIEW**



Matthew Bond

"Cute little chaps, aren't they?" Alas, (particularly for the elvers) we never found out. By the time we returned from the long shot to which the director had tactfully retreated, the fatal damage was more or less done. F-W was pushing a few would-be escapees to the bottom of his pan with his deadly spatula (bet all the perfumes of Arabia won't get the the little bleeders dead as quickly as possible," he muttered. Not a sentiment, I expect, you'll

find aired very often in the new series of Animal Hospital (BBC!) as Rolf and the gang descended on the Hampden Veterinary Practice in Aylesbury. "They've been treating animals here for over 100 years
-incredible isn't it?" Quite incred-

For the new series the emphasis seems to have been switched away from cloying sentiment towards humour. Basically, unless your animal has got something pretty funny wrong with it, it's hardly worth turning up. Still, the good burghers of Bucks had laboured long and hard to put on a good display of comic ailments. We had a neurotic parrot, a python that would have had two penises had it not turned out to be a girl, a duck with cataracts, and a cat which might have had a stroke. Hang on, vomp off that). "We just want to get a cat with a stroke - isn't that a bit

serious? "Will she need a CAT scan?" joshed Rolf. Normal service had been resumed.

The traditional cliff-hanger was provided by Louis, a black cat which had clearly had a Fearnley-Whittingstall cross its path recently. The resultant bad luck had caused a massive bacterial infection and possibly a brace of lethal feline viruses. "It's not looking very good," whispered Rolf. The car, however, still has a fighting chance of making it to next week; which is more than can be said for

And more, unless I'm very much mistaken, than can be said of James Wilby, who finished the first instalment of Original Sin (ITV) with a stuffed snake (kapok rather than sage and onion) stuck down his throat. Never mind, plenty more stars to go round - lan Bannen, Sylvia Syms, Amanda Root, Cathryn Harrison:

minor roles before you even begin to find names you don't know.

This fairly outrageous casting provides the clue that we are in for the most theatrical and mannered adaptation of a P.D. James "Dalgliesh" novel that I can recall. Real life has effectively come to a halt, along with anything re-sembling real work for Command-er Dalgliesh (Roy Marsden) who spends much of the time looking moodily out of his riverside

With the help of some reasonably convincing computer graphics, a Venetian palazzo has sprung up on the bank of the Thames (so far everybody involved either lives or works by the river) providing offices for the ailing Peverell Press and a setting for what is essentially an urban version of a country house murder mystery. The body count currently stands at two. Unless you include the elvers . . .

6.00am Business Breakfast (37678) 7.00 BBC Breakfast News (T) (54605) 9.00 Breakfast News Extra (T) (5950518) 9.20 Style Challenge (4207995) 9.45 Kilroy (T) (4970860) 10.30 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (54266)

11.00 News (T), regional news and weather (6903957) 11.05 The Realty Useful Show (1) (7515686) 11.35 Change That (8190518) 12.00 News (T); and weather (7057686) 12.05pm The Alphabet Game (5098889) 12.30 Going for a Song (6368957) 12.55 The Weather Show (79422421)

1.00 News (T) and weather (57792)

1.30 Regional News (83109266) 1.40 Neighbours (r) (T) (11496773) 2.05 Woman on the Ledge (1990) with Diedre Hall, Leslie Charleson and Colleen Zenk Pinter. Tear-jerker about the relationship between three women whose friendship goes back to childhood, told in flashback from a 15th-floor ledge, where

one of the trio is threatening suicide Directed by Chris Thomson (7777131) 3.30 Playdays (5958402) 3.50 The All New Popeye Show (r) (5969518) 4.15 Fudge (r) (1965711) 4.35 The Friday Zone (5902179) 5.00 Newsround (T) (3262082) 5.10 Blue Peter (T) (8717763) 5.35 Neighbours (r) (T) (294402)

6.00 News (T); and weather (711) 6.30 Newsroom South East (173) 7.00 Big Break Jim Davidson hosts the snooker based game show teaturing professional players Tony Knowles, John Parrot and David Taylor (1) (3763)

7.30 Top of the Pops (T) (247) 8.00 Tomorrow's World: Megalab 97 Live from the Tomorrow's World event at the NEC in

Birmingham (T) (6773) 8.30 A Question of Sport Table tennis ace Lisa Lomas, rugby's Jonathan Davies, Aston Villa's Mark Bosnich and swimmer Graeme Smith join David Coleman, and team captains John Parrott and Sam Torrance (T) (5808)

9.00 News (T); regional news and weather

9.30 Silent Witness: Only the Lonely in the tirst of a two-part story. Ross is cartain there's more to a woman's death than meets the eye. With Amanda Burton, Mick Ford and William Armstrong (T) (176792)

10.20 The Mrs Merton Show Keith Chegwin and Ian Botham join the perky pensioner on the sofa tonight (T) (385315)

10.50 Poltergelst (1982) with JoBeth Williams Craig T. Nelson and Heather O'Rourke.
The home of an all-American family is invaded by spooks who gain access through the television set. Produced by Steven Splelberg and directed by Tobe Hooper (T) (12547060)

12.40am That's Your Funeral (1972) Macabre comedy, with Bill Fraser, Raymond Hurtley and David Battley. Directed by John Robins (7063700) 2.00 Weather (8031193)

YideoPlus+ and the Video PlusCodes The numbers next to each TV programme listing are Video PlusCode "numbers, which issing are video Pruscode "numbers, which allow you to programme your video recorder instantly with a VideoPlus+" handset Tap in the Video PfusCode for the programme your wish to record. Videoplus+ ("), Pluscode (") and Video Programmar are trademarks of Gernster Development Ltd.

CHOICE

Tomorrow's World: Megalab '97 BBC1. S.OOnm

The grand finale to the BBC's Science Week is a live, viewer-participation programme from the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham. Sceptics may doubt the scientific validity of the Megalab concept of using the elevision audience to create a huge laboratory, but it never fails to produce watchable fare. One of the experiments being carried out tonight goes to the heart of British legal procedure by looking at how psychology affects the jury system. Another exercise, touching on genetics, evolution and the brain, tries to establish whether lefthanded people are more, or less, talented than right-handers. The natural world is not neglected, however, and there are items about the red squirrel's battle for survival and a contest to see which of the world's top robotic mice get the cheese.

Gardeners' World BBC2, 8,30pm

You never know with Bob Flowerdew, a gardening guru as unconventional as his amazing pigiail. Regular viewers of this programme can hardly forget his idiosyncratic uses for old carpet, discarded car tyres and derelict freezers. Nothing quite as eccentric is on view tonight but the man who has turned the recycling of the unwanted into an art form has some handy tips of what to do with the ash from a stove After that the show settles into a more orthodox pattern as the cheery Alan Titchmarsh continues to brighten up his back yard and Roy Lancaster begins the first of four reports on the wild flowers of South Africa. And what could be more solidly traditional than a visit to a National Trust property? Peckover House in Wisbech, Cambridgeshire, was laid out in Victorian times and retains its period character.

Doomsday Virus ITV, 9.00pm (not Northern Ireland)

The disaster movie lives on in this tale of a deadly virus which escapes from a laboratory in Germany American 747 taking holidaymakers back to New York for Christmas. It is soon clear that they will be lucky to get there. Hardly has the plane taken off from Frankfurt than the carrier of the strain has croaked his last. All 250 passengers could be dead in 48 hours. To make matters worse, country after country refuses the aircraft landing rights. To make things even worse, the CIA comes up with a novel, if extreme, solution. Such is the plot series offers. The cast includes Jane Leeves, the English star of Frusier, and other faces familiar from US imports, but they get so little chance to shine that the roles might just as well have been taken by robots.

Silent Witness: Only the Lonely BBC1.9_Upm

Silent Witness is either becoming less graesome or we are getting used to seeing naked corpses spread out on the slab. This time the stiff is a 29-year-old married woman who has been strangled with her tights. Gillian Richmond's script sets up a classic whodunit. The victim had been having an affair, which makes her husband a suspect. But she may have decided to end the relationship, in which case the murder could have been her lover's revenge. But if this sounds too simple a case to spread over two episodes. Richmond has other possibilities 1.30-3.35 ET Topo (1971) Cult classic that blends 1960s mysticism with speqhelit western violence and culminates in a graphic, bloody massacre Directed by Alexandro Jodorowsky. In Spanish with English subtitles (829.10) with which to tease us. At any rate, the investigation is a lot more intriguing than the desultory romance between Amanda Burton's buttoned-up pathologist and that dreary policeman or the tiresome subplot about her strange sister. Peter Waymark 6.00am GMTV (6354334)

9.25 Chain Letters (1) (4282686) 9.55 Regional News (T) (5074773) 10.00 The Time, the Place (52911)

10.30 This Morning (14741222) 12.20pm Regional News (T) (7061889) 12.30 News (T) and weather (6386353)

12.55 Wish You Were Here? (r) (T) (6361044) 1.25 Home and Away (T) (47296860) 1.50 Murder, She Wrote (8092889) 2.50 Get a Lile! (5717792) 3.20 News (T) (7505119)

3.25 Regional News (T) (2450060) 3.30 Rosie and Jim (6765709) 3.40 Sim Pig (9410402) 3.50 Carloon Time (9416686) 4.00 Zzzap! (2222131) 4.15 Jumanii (T) (1941131) 4.40 Gladiators. Train 2 Win (1) (4894266)

5.10 A Country Practice (5131247) 5.40 News (T) and weather (477808) 6.00 Home and Away (r) (T) (211605) 6.25 HTV Weather (197686)

6.30 HTV News (T) (131) 7.00 Lucky Numbers Game show presented by Shane Richie (T) (5421) 7.30 Coronation Street Tricia defends herself against Jack's accusations and gives him

an ultimatum, while Alan raises a few



Russell Boulter investigates (8.00pm)

8.00 The Bill: Copier DS Boulton (Russell Boulter) investigate when a woman is attacked soon after moving into her new fial and believes that there could be a link

to an earlier unsolved case (1) (1841) 8.30 Eye Spy Selina Scott presents more real-

cameras (1) (8696)
9.00 Charles Doornsday Virus Gripping, two-part disaster drams about the passengers on a plane learning that they may be carriers of a deadly virus (1) (0860) womonor

10.00 News (T) and weather (31315) 10.30 HTV News (T) (275150) (558792)

11.25 Rugby World Cup Sevens Jim Rosenthal presents highlights of the first day's play in Hong Kong, as England begun their detence of the title. With Hastings (538173) 2.25am Box Office America (r) (5718025)

1.00 Funky Bunker (57025) 2.00 Club Nation (6169483)

3.00 Shift (2254639) 3.55 Collins and Maconie's Movie Club (r)

4.35 3-D (t) (T) (36964754) 5.00 Coronation Street (r) (1) (38367) 5.30 News

As HTV West except 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044) 1.50 Savannah (8001537)

2.45 Breakaways (9846179) 2,50-3.20 Our House (5717792) 5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (5131247) 6.25-7.00 Central News (579402) 12.25am ITV Sport Classics (7583551)

12.40 Funky Bunker (5714209) 1.40 Baywatch (5090358) 2.30 Cyber Cate (63174) 3.00 Collins and Maconie's Movie Ciub

3.30 Dating the Enemy (8591483) 4.25 Central Jobfinder '97 (4345700) 5.20 Asian Eye (1251648)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except: 12.20pm-12.30 Illuminations (7046570) 12.55-1.25 Emmerdale (6361044) 1.50 High Road (11401605) 5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5131247)

6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (75247) 12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents: Final Escape A woman is sentenced to life imprisonment for a crime she claims she did not commit (5718025)

MERIDIAN As HTV West except: 12.55pm-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044) 1.55 Savannah (8000808)

5.10-5.40 Home and Away (5131247) 6.00-7.00 Meridian Tonight (75247) 12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (5718025) 4.25 Sound Bites (38355377)

2.50-3.20 Serve You Right (5717792)

5.00 Freescreen (38367)

ANGLIA As HTV West except: 12.19pm Anglia Air Watch (7065605)

12.55-1.25 A Country Practice (6361044) 1.55 Savannah (8000808) 2.50-3.20 Dogs with Dunbar (5717792) 5.10-5,40 Shortland Street (5131247) 6.23 Angita Weather (198315) 6.25-7.00 Angila News (579402)

10,29 Anglia Air Watch (346686) 12.25am Alfred Hitchcock Presents (5718025)

4.25 Sound Bites (38355377)

S4C Starts: 6.00 Sesame Street (90228) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (47315) 9.00 Bewitched (41792) 9.30 Ysgolion (970792) 12.00pm Collectors' Lot (38228) 12.30 Ellen (58570) 1.00 Slot Meithrin (40402) 1.30 The War of Doncaster (3773) 4.00 Fifteen-to-One (604) 4.30 Shop Till You Drop (228) 5.00 5 Pump (3529) 5.30 Countdown (808) 6.00 Newyddion 6 (835334) 6.05 Heno (222711) 6.35 Jacpot (104976) 7.00 Pobol y Cwm (332082) 7.25 Y Sloe Gelf (607179) 8.00 (32062) 722 1 Side Gell (07779) 3.00 Penclacwydd: Tachwedd - Rhagfyr (2711) 8.30 Newyddion (8518) 9.00 Turning World (4402) 10.00 Brookside (39957) 10.30 Here's Johnny (811773) 11.05 The Girlie Show (635518) 11.35 TFI Friday (972518) 12.33am Robin (9553803) 12.40 Flava (4630803) 1.15 Film: The Manchurian Candidate (28105716) 3.30 Burnt Out (9480464) 4.15 Film: The Sniper (399358) 5.45 Diwedd (3346551)

6.00 am Sesame Street (90228) 7.00 The Big Breakfast (47315) 9.00 Bewitched (r) (T) (41792)

9.30 Schools Eureka! Ancient Greece (1) 9.45 Stop Look Listen (r) (T) 10.00 Fourways Farm (r) 10.10 Summer Term Preview 10.25 Technology 10.40 Off Limits (T) 11.05 The Score 11.20 Stage One 11.35 Schools at Work 11.40 Living Proof (T) (970792)

(310/92) 12.00 The Lost Gardens of Heilgan (r) (T) (38228) 12.30pm Baby It's You (r) (T) (6/6) (58570) 1.00 Ellen (r) (T) (40402) 1.30 Australia Wild (57841)

2.00 Racing from Doncaster The 2.05, 2.35, 3.10 and 3.40 races (3773)

4.00 Fifteen-to-One (T) (604) 4.30 Countdown (T) (228) 5.00 Ricki Lake (T) (3529) 5.30 Pet Rescue (T) (808) 6.00 TFI Friday The guests include the photographer David Bailey (73889) 7.00 Channel 4 News (T) (781570)

7,55 Black Holes of Science What would it mean if we understood consciousness? (355042)

8.00 The Lost Gardens of Heligan The restoration of the Sundial Gardens, once the finest herbaceous border in England (2/6) (T) (2711)



Vince Earl as Ron Dixon (8.30pm)

8.30 Brookside A remark by Ron (Vince Earl) has terrible consequences for Jackie (Sue Jenkins) (T) (8518) 9.00 Caroline in the City (1) (7860)

9.30 Spin City Michael gets into a fierce competition over who can cook the most meals for the homeless? (1) (78334) 10.00 Roseanne Roseanne misses the

Thanksolving fun. Shelley Winters makes a guest appearance (T) (39957)

10.30 Here's Johnny Johnny Vaughan meets Metinda Messenger and Frank Warren (811773)

11.05 The Girlie Show The guests include Stan Collymore (635518) 11.35 TFI Friday (r) (972518)

12.35am Robin (9553803) 12,40 Flava Sout, R'n'B, hip hop, reggae and

jungle (6/8) (4630803) 1.15 The Manchurian Candidate (1962) with Frank Sinatra, Laurence Hervey, Janet Leigh and Angela Lansbury. Classic thriller cum political satire, adapted from Richard Condon's novel about a war hero returning from Korea, who has been brainwashed along with the rest of his platoon by the Chinese who plan to use them in a plot to overthrow the American

Government. Directed by Frankenheimer (T) (28105716) 3.30 Burnt Out A couple become stranded in a desert (r) (9480464)

4,15 The Sniper (1952) with Arthur Franz and Adolphe Menjou. A film non directed by Edward Drnytryk (381754) 5.50 Early Morning: Terrytoons (3620648)

• For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Directory. published on Saturday

2.00pm Dad (1989) (59247) 4.00 Where the Red Fern Groves: Part 2 (1991) (3062) 6.00 Eversmile, New Jessey (1989) (85906) 7.30 UK Top 10 (5537) 3.00 Missell Huts (1994) (4128) 10.00 Needtal Trings (1993) (23334) 12.00 Dezed and Confused (1983) (86700) 3.15 Out of Annie's Past (1994) (848603) 4.50 Misdemoiselle FIII (1944) (500884) SKY 1

6.00am Morring Glory (386624) 9.00 Regis and Kalfee Lee (77869) 10.00 Another World (82402) 11.00 Days of Our Lives (4256) 12.00 The Oprah Wirthey Show (9841) 1.00pm Geraldo (15869) 2.00 Selfy Jessy Rephael (80792) 3.00 Jerny Jones (31353) 4.00 The Oprah Wirthey Show (10660) 5.00 Star Tietc The Need Generation (7808) 6.00 Real Tv (2063) 6.30 Martied — with Children (3315) 7.00 The Simpsons (9537) 7.30 M*A*S*H (9599) 8.00 JAG (47402) 9.00 Walter, Texas Ranger (9786) 10.00 High Incident (9353) 41.00 Salm Soot Tonight (2889) 11.30 Star Trek. The Need Generation (41624) 12.30am LAP D (95735) 1.00 High Long Play (1955025) SKY MOVIES GOLD 6.00pm Moonstruck (1987) (3452773) 8.00 The Trail of the Pink Parither (1982) (3464518) 10.00 Road House (1989) (580284) 12.00 To Live and Die in LA (1985) (2502377) 1.55am Woman of the Year (1942) (1437782) 3.50 That's Enter-talmoenti (1974) (20687261) B.00pm WCW Nifro (92755570) 9.00 How the West Was Won (1952) (22725082) 11.35 Battle Beneath the Earth (1957) (1545063) 1.15am Mar Without a Face (1905) (33003629) 2.15-5.00 How the West Was Won (1962) (47200153) Next Generation (47024) 12304111 (52735) 1.00 Hz Mb Long Play (1635025)

7.00pm Beverly Hills 90210 (6687957) 9.00 Metrose Place (6576505) 9.00 Pacific Drive (9556941) 10.00 Tales from the Crypt (80355) 11.00 Late Show (5290131) 12.00 His Mix Long Play (9080671)

7.00em Sports Centre (23773) 7.30 Wresting (18131) 8.30 Racing News (56537) 9.00 Sports Centre (47889) 9.30 Aerobos (74421) 10.00 Neibusters (18353) 10.30 Live Golf (92605) 12.30pm US Golf (8228) 2.30 World Sport Special (7315) 3.00 Live Golf (72518) 4.88 Sports Centre (678112 5.00 Inside the Sentor PGA Tour (3247) Worldwide news coverage, with bulletins on the hour, 24 hours a day, seven days a week Galt (72518) 4.28 Sports Certife (678112) 5.00 Inside the Sentor PGA Tour (3247) 5.30 Nationaters (1731 6.00 Sports Certife (6023) 7.00 Live Super Langue (780131) 9.30 The Rugby Cub (65773) 70.00 Sports Certife (91247) 11.00 Hold the Back Pege (20421) 12.00 Whesting (66648) 1.00am Purper Legal (2017) 9.00am Sports 6,00sm A Christmas Romance (1994) (91605) 8,00 Pury at Sangglers' Bay (1960) (14608501) 9,45 The Tuskegee Almen (1996) (68485268) 12,15pm The Bast Little Girl in the World (1981) Super League (22700) 3.00-4.00 Sports Centre (16551) SKY SPORTS 2 8.00pm ice Hockey NHL Power West (4353889) 9.00 Live US PGA Got Bay Hill

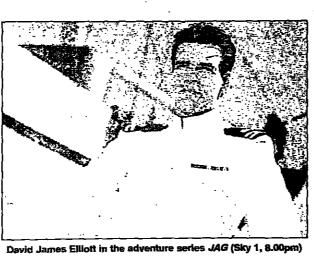
SKY SPORTS 1

7.30am Figure Skaling (10599) 8.30 Rooty 7.30am rigue 5.2amg (10.7%-0.519) Modd Cup Sovens — Line (57%-0.519) 11.15 Football (3134.518) 1.00 Line) gras Skaling (5481650) 9.30 Mighty Man Con-lest (79179) 10.30 Rugby Sevens (7960) 11.30-12.30 Funsports (81250) UK GOLD

7.00am Tehrstach (0541,773) 7.25 fee-jn bours (93)8353) 8.00 Crussachels (1078278) 8.25 EastEnders (83)32860; 9.00 The Bid (28841)27 9.30 Broad (1677247) 10.00 Recent the Twan (43)4805) 10.30 The Sultwars (28)3624; 11.00 Recented Files (14)266; 12.00 Crussackers (26)4976; 12.20pm Neighbours (26)7083; 1.00 EastEnders (882)2199; 1.35 Twe Romines (31)36537; 2.30 For the Lox of Ada (82)2080; 3.00 Columnister (41)2030 3.00 The Bid (82)2199; 4.00 All (Vesticles Great and Small (53)4824; 5.00 Cemeration Game (57)24989; 6.05 EastEnders (918)42) 6.40 Are for Beng Served (43)45150; 7.20 Russ Adom (72)4808; 7.50 Bullstye (88)61311, 8.20 in Sultwars and in Bullsoye (8816131; 8.20 in Sciences and in Health (55:5624); 9.00 The Bull (53:33772); 9.30 The Chief (10425421); 10.35 The Bost of Top of the Paps (1040053); 11.25 FILM: Phantasm (9162131) 12.55am FiLM: The Undead (17121144) 2.10 Shopping at GRANADA PLUS

6,00am Eurypton Factor (2671934) 8.30 Todo on the Turn (79214773) 5.45 The Magic Ball (1575808) 7.00 Alloors (416841) 7.15 Tock on the Turn (5562605) 7.30 Catacout of (6531904) 8.00 Casare Coronation Steet (472442) 8.30 Families (472379) 9.00 The Protessionals (2680062) 10.00 The Gumbieweed (789191) 10.30 Cuchoo Wart (471028) 11.00 Winter These Walls (5543082) 12.00 Classic Coronation Steet (4734608) Chase Colonation Steet (473/802) 12.30pm Families (76/02/28) 1.00 Albon Market (651/570) 1.30 Good Life Guide Market (cs) arrived that could be stable (2605899 2,00 A Proce of Cade (782666) 3,00 Upstars. Downstars (10x2334) 4,00 the Coctor Sens in the 10x2-660(272) 4,30 The Gramblewood (188697) 5,00 The Protessionals (89295) 8,00 Families The Hotelspones restains 6-up natively 6899841 8.30 Classes Congression Street 16863421) 7.00 The Dector Street In the House 69340247, 7.30 The Clask to Walter (0899605) 8.00 Upstein Downstain 77347044 9.00 Clasks Corondon 169182, 116303531 9.30 The Conceder 169182,

the state of the s



THE DISNEY CHANNEL 6.00am Maria Tricht (3624565) 6.25 Chair Atrick (41.9650) 6.50 Bonkers

6.00am 13 etc. 130.05; (26.9565) 6.25 Cuato 20.05; 141.9650) 6.50 Borker, 130.0531 7.15. The Life Memad (157.421, 7.40 Aladdin (25.2131) 8.05 Cuato flat, 4.40 Aladdin (25.2131) 8.05 Cuato (27.2264) 9.40 Big should (84.9287) 9.55 Cuato (10.6547) 11.20 Mouse Tracks (29.0797) 12.20pm flaton and Puribas (27.2131) 12.55 flat Cuite Memad (25.4131) 12.55 flat Cuite Memad (25.4131) 12.55 flat Cuite Memad (25.4131) 1.50 Aladdin (25.71957) 2.10 Darkens flaton and flaton (25.4131) 12.81 flaton (46.7870) 2.35 Cool Track (46.7870) 2.35 Cool Track (46.7870) 2.35 Cool Track (47.7871) 4.00 Good Troop (90.3351) 4.35 Forekers (56.6688) 5.00 Aladdin (56.6488) 5.00 Aladdin (56.64888) 5.00 Aladdin (56.6488 Against 1996 - 1 haute officer and Primary 1997(9) 8.00 St. (1997(4) 6.30 Timon and Primary Lines (1997(4) 6.30 Timon and Primary Lines (1997(4) 6.30 Timon and Primary Lines (1997(4) 6.30 Timon and Primary 1997(4) 6.3

FOX KIDS NETWORK

6.00am Three Little Chosts (5035247) 6-30 Inspector Gardget (7237989) 7-00 Samulai Prze Caris (6004717) 7-30 Power Rangers (6290518) 8-00 Masked Rider (7251880) 8-30 Crocadoo (7250131) 9-00 Rimba's Island (5450081) 9-30 Zoobilee Zoo (3828570) 10-35 Why Why Family (5884889) 10-30 Zoobilee Zoo (3801570) 10-35 Why Why Family (5884889) 10-30 Princess State (72986034) 11-00 Princess State (72986034) 11-00 Princess State (72986034) 11-00 Princess State (72986031) 12-00 Billy the Cart (7271247) 12-30pm VR Inopers (29724421) 12-50 Power Rangers (2971957) 1.10 Masked Rider (2537597) 1.30 Ace Ventura (603376) 2-00 Ceaper (432889) 2-30 Lile with Loue (465360) 3-00 Ee-Seavenganza (4335624) 3-00 Masked Rider (4307841) 5-30 Specierman (6958966) 6-00 Goosebumps (9108119) 6-30-7-00 Sweet Valley High (9908911)

6.00am Antie of Green Gables/Road to Azoniea (29792) 7.00 Denne, the Menade

(94518) 7.30 Dennis the Menace (69763) 8.00 Balman (99266) 8.30 Ari Arteck (98537) 9.00 Flash Gordon (89889) 9.30 (98537) 9.00 Flash Conton (8989) 9.30 Bobby's World (34583) 10.00 Romueld the Remder (47112) 10.30 Robmson Sugroc (78773) 11.00 Danger Mouse (8770) 11.30 Generalae High (95699) 12.00 Oscer's Orchestra (92353) 12.30pm Halfwey Across the Galaxy (1889) 1.00 Black Beauty (84660) 2.00 Get from Tomonor (8711) 2.30 Cesan Odyssey (3131) 3.00 Art Artack (4518) 3.30 Flash Gordon (5976) 4.00 Balman (7711) 4.30-6.00 Big Dish (3995)

CARTOON NETWORK Non-stop cartoons from 5,00am to 9,00pm includes Tom and Jeny, Popeye and The Flintstones NICKELODEON

8.00em Killer Tornaines (2095) 6.30 Court Duckata (92315) 7.00 Rocke (9423624) 7.16 Hey Arnold (6538976) 7.30 Rugrats (33150) 8.00 Doug (55808) 8.30 Arthur (54179) 8.00 Children's BBC (58131) Arthur (54179) 9.00 Children's BBC (38131) 10.00 Winne's House (16995) 10.30 Baber (34315) 11.00 Megis School Bus (72524) 11.30 Henry's Cat/Wil Creat Cward.cob's Library/Topsay and Tim/Jimbo (72353) 12.30 pm Lritle Bear Stores (83179) 1.00 Children's BBC (20366) 2.00 Dr Seusc (7727) 2.30 Nassylur (5957) 3.00 Wishbone (9044) 3.30 Suiden' Around (3042) 4.00 Bruno (9537) 4.00 Pugratic (8421) 5.00 Seiter Stater (1689) 5.30 Mousha (9773) 6.00 Press Gang (6696) 8.30-7.00 Doug TROUBLE

12.00 Heartbreak High (2645266) 1.00pm Madson (8138150) 1.30 Sweet Valley High (2656402) 2.00 Hangtime (4108711) 2.30 Celtomia Dreams (26207150) 3.00 Byker Grove (4194518) 3.30 No Nated Flames (821995) 4,00 Sweet Valley High (8298402) 4.30 Hangtime (8294686) 5.00 Sweet by the Bell (4199063) 5.30 Celtomia Dreams (8218266) 6.00 Byker Grove (8215179) 5.30 Madison (6299131) 7.00-8.00 Heartbreak High (3481792)

8.00pm Robocop (3467112) 9.00 Burning Zone (3467976) 10.00 Tour of Duty (3460063) 11,00 FiLM: Cruel Passion (6865808) 1.00am Burryg Zone (5432700) 2.00 Tour of Duty (95.9209) 3.00 FILM:

BRAVO

PARAMOUNT COMEDY

7.00pm EUK (4353) 7.30 Riceanne (9150) 8.00 Riceanne (7583) 8.30 Mortly Python (8208) 9.00 Cheers (52861) 9.30 Tad (63315) 10.00 Gerry Shanding (59624) 10.30 Frisser (35044) 11.00 Collins and Maconie's Morke Cub (54605) 11.30 Mortly Python (12179) 12.00 Nurses (41700) 12.30em Scap (57321) 1.00 Cheers (54377) 1.30 Tad (73434) 2.00 E UK (25551) 2.30 Collins and Maconie's Morke Cub (11358) 3.00 Fraster (71613) 3.30-4.00 Garry Stranding (35938)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL 1.00em The Twilight Zone [1880209) 1.30 Tains of the Unexpected (3903919) 2.00 100 Years of Horror (\$263303) 2.30 Rod Serung's Night Gallery (9067700) **3.00-4.00** Friday the 13th (5290700)

TLC 9,00em The Joy of Penting (2815082) 9,30 Gardeners' Diany (2635889) 10,00 Two's Country Cooling (4265150) 10,30 Our House (2811369) 11,00 Fix it (535179) House (2811305) 11.00 PM (13351170) 12.00 Vsn Can Cook (2802518) 12.30 pm Graham Ker (2839605) 1.00 Todey's Gourmer (8141224) 1.30 Home Again (2638976) 2.00 Homentos (4188957) 2.30 Furnhure to Go (8210624) 3.00 Two's Country (4190792) 3.30-4.00 This Old House DISCOVERY

4,00pm Rex Funt (9201976) 4.30 Australie Wild (8290860) 5.00 Treasure Hunters (4102597) 5.30 Beyond 2000 (8281112) 6.00 Wild Things (2547624) 7.00 Invention (4122773) 7.30 Wonders of Weather (820889) 8.00 Jurassica II (3470886) 9.00 Medical Detectives (5331315) 9.30 Science Detectives (2619841) 10.00 Justice File (3493537) 11.00 Lotus Elise (8128773) 12.00 Battle of the Bulge (8639193) 1,30am-2.00 The Extremisis (6849890) THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm Biography. The Cueen Mother in Person (9866082) \$.00 The Life and Times of Jesus (3612925) 6.00 China Rising (6144150) 7.00-8.00 Biography: Hunch-

CHALLENGE TY Wan with Prize Time twice on hour Spelibound (103711) 6.30 Catchphiase (806191) 7.05 Sale of the Century (144889) 7.40 Gave Us A Caue (831402) 8.20 All Caued Up (701452) 9.00 Through the Keyhole (321957) 9.35 Bustmen's Holicaty (216686) 19.06 Treasure Hurd (707711) 11.20 Love at First Sight (269624) 12.30 am Family Late Hart to Hert (41071) 1.30 Lou Grant (46716) 2.30 Christy (77218) 9.30 All Treather Nov. (77949) 4.00 The Feb Caue Together Now (77964) 4.00 The Fati Guy (96209) 5.00 HSN Direct Shopping (99735) UK LIVING

6.00am Trey Living (2111518) 9.00 Glochags and Glernour (3930518) 9.15 The Cordon Elliot Show (8996524) 10.05 Jerry Springer Uncut (4039150) 11.00 The Young and The Resiliess (8440179) 11.45 Super Presco Fabuciosus (44810773) 11.55 Uper New Mr and Mrs Show (9959137) 12.25pm Why Me? Real Life Stories (701434/2) 12.55 Tempest (3738247) 1.48 Rolonda (9157860) 2.30 The Agony Experience (2349044) 3.00 Live at Three (49746518) 4.05 The Jerry Springer Show (5732711) 4.05 The Jerry Springer Show (5732711) 5.00 Super Fresco Fabulosious (37280624) 5,00 Super Fresco Fabuloscus (37280624) 5,05 Lingo (84401599) 5.30 Lucky (addies (2343950) 6.00 1 Draem of Jearne (8419941) 6.35 Ready, Steady, Cook (3007960) 7.05 Intaruation UA. (1096537) 7.40 Who's Sory Now? (6015537) 8.05 Rolonda (8322062) 9.00 FILM: Ludy Mobister (3454137) 11.00-12.00 The Sex File (1532112)

7.00sm Jeagran 7.30 ZEE Morrang 8.30 Sm Krishna 9.00 Punjabi Polis 9.30 Yacaton Ke Rang 10.00 Chalo Chema 10.30 Kathesham 11.00 Zale Ka Sais 11.30 Hasrelein 12.00 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Austrelein 12.00 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Austrelein 12.01 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Austrelein 12.01 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Hasrelein 12.01 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Lend 10.01 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Austrelein 12.00 Andez 12.30pm Dhoop Boop Ke Pg 6.30 ZEE and You 7.00 BBCD 7.30 Autae 8.00 News and Euronews 8.35 Parentpers 8.05-12.00 He Star Season Filiate Gertain 20 Star Season FILM: Geotanjal

MTV The 24 hour music channel, includes news, reviews, five concent footage, interviews and the latest music video chans from Europe and the USA.

The video hits channel, Classic rock and pop videos and the best new sounds includes Ten of the Best and the Vinyi Years

FRIDAY MARCH 21 1997

United unwrap priceless gift of boredom

hen the lights dimmed in Estádio das Antas on Wednesday night, there was pride, professionalism and passion for Manchester United. For the first time since Heysel, in 1985, the English champions are among the final four of Europe. Savour the moment, because their next opponents are Borussia Dortmund, and when England faces Germany in a semi-final the portents are clear to

More will be known this afternoon, when lots are drawn to decide whether the first leg will be played in Manchester or Dortmund. It used to be automatic that it was preferable to play the away leg first, yet, given that Alex Ferguson's side created all the tempo, scored all the goals that were necessary against FC Porto in the first leg at Old Trafford, maybe that should be If United were indeed to be drawn away, and even if they came back undefeated from Dortmund, would they be so committed to attacking football at home, or would they become more tentative with the final beckoning?

Temperamentally, tactically and physically, Dortmund will be a class above the hollow opposition that Porto turned out to be. Perhaps the Portuguese were over-rated, opinion based too much on their triumph over AC Milan and too little on the decline of the former Italian champions.

Yet Ferguson's pride in what his team is achieving is surely justified. Barely six months ago, in Istanbul, he had talked of his team being "so young, there are times when they don't understand what's happening

Hoddle plans for the future

Butt recruited

for England's youth brigade

against them. They'll learn."
Indeed they did. By Wednesday
they had old heads on young

Alex Ferguson's masterful game of patience was well worth waiting for, says Rob Hughes

shoulders, ensuring that - no matter what else was happening around them - their rivals on the pitch were nullified. Ferguson, when his team performs, tends to be effusive in

praise of them: "We

showed good discipline, but we can play better," he said. "I don't think we played magnificently, but we were magnificently, comfortable."

He was, in effect, acknowledging that the patience, the waiting game so often inflicted on England, was easily achieved. Boring, you might vision of the final

Up above where Ferguson sat, Martin Edwards, the United chairman, had the look of a banker calling in his loan. United's prize-money for getting this far is

£6.25 million. Add the gate receipts, another million pounds or so per home game and the galvanising effect on world merchandising, and you are looking at £15 million reaped from this particular Euro-

pean journey. Yet it never was about money

United manager who inherited Matt Busby's mantle, was dancing in the stadium fully half an hour. after the final whistle. He would tell anyone who might listen that United had shed the naivety, particular-ly the defensive simplicity, that cost

decade in Europe.

The team is still evolving, though Keane, Giggs and Beckham have rapidly become as influential as Cantona, and Solskjaer continues to surprise even Ferguson, who bought him from Norway last

English clubs so dear over the past

Dortmund will be without Matthias Sammer, their leader, their free-flowing libero, because he received a second yellow card in Auxerre on Wednesday, but the vastly experienced Stefan Reuter is eligible to return. Dortmund have so many quality players in so many

players have hit the target in this European campaign.
No one, not even Juventus, can

remotely match such a statistic. They now meet Ajax, whom they beat in the final last May, and whose recuperation after so many injuries and so many players lost under the Bosman ruling, means that it is Europe or nothing this

One of the Ajax scorers in a tumultious victory over Affetico Madrid on Wednesday was Dani. Remember him? They just might at Upton Park, for he is the Portuguese midfield player who could not make the grade for West Ham United.

Dani, profiting among players such as the De Boer twins and the rejuvenated Jari Litmanen, has scored three goals for Ajax in the Champions' League ... quality finds its level in this competition.

Ginola to be given transfer at end of the season

BY DAVID MADDOCK

GIVEN Newcastle United's performance in their United Cup debacle against Mexico on Tuesday night it hardly surprising to hear the terday that David Ginola, the France international wings. had asked for a transfer. request was submitted below their ill-fated journey.

When Ginola presented his request last week, it was politely but firmly declined by the club. The Frenchman wit not be allowed to leave units the end of the season, when Kenny Dalglish will begin the daunting process of rebuild-ing his shattered side.

Ginola was still in Franke yesterday, given a few days at training to spend time in a new home he has built in the countryside between Monaco and Marseilles, which is per-haps an indication of his likely destination next season.

The Frenchman has now come to an uneasy truce with Dalglish and has agreed not to rock the boat until the end of this season, when his request will be met.

If Ginola is ready to leave Newcastle in the summer. then Peter Beardsley has decided to play on despite a suggestion he may take up a coaching position with the club next season. There are 15 months left on my contract and I'll be starting again next season, trying to win a place in

the team," he said.

Middlesbrough have been presented with a floorny prob-iem days before their Coea-Cola Cup final with Leicester City. Jumpho, the Brazil international and midfield inspiration for the Toesside chib, has been called up by his country for an international match-against Chile on April 2, just four days before the final at Wembley.

Juninho is certain to travel home for the match, which will present his last opportunity to force his way into the reckoning for a place in the Brazil squad for the World Cup finals next season, as the national coach, Zagallo, has indicated he will bring the squad together a year before the tournament.

Middlesbrough's problem is that Juninho will return, jetlagged on the Friday before the game and they must be worried about the state he will return in



superb in the cautionary tac-

TERRY VENABLES had them by the dozen; Glenn Hoddle has waited and waited for the opportunity of a friendly international match in which he might experiment. Yesterday, announcing a squad of 25 players for the match at Wembley against Mexico, on Saturday March 29, the England coach began to ring some changes.

Nicky Butt is included in the party, as well as David Beckham, a potential refit made at Old Trafford, harnessing the vision of Beckham in the playmaker role that so many believe his potential demands, and giving him the understanding and the tenacity of his Manchester United

This, indeed, may be the crux of Hoddle's forward thinking. Butt, 22, and already honoured with the captaincy of the under-21 side, could be the future, the fire to replace that of Ince, once it cools. Ince needs both an understudy and someone to ensure that he is on his mettle.

At the start of the World Cup qualifying matches, Ince had mused that it was up to experienced people like him indeed, he also included Gascoigne in this statement - to show the discipline, the maturity, the leadership to younger players coming through for their country.

By ROB HUGHES, FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

The youth brigade, whom Hoddle may well promote in England's cause, is burgeoning. Sol Campbell and Dominic Matteo, are the same age as Butt and a little older than Beckham and Robbie Fowler, though all of them were left standing, in terms of precocity, by Gary Neville. Hc, quite

SQUAD

I Walker (Tottenham), D James (Liverpool). T Flowers (Blackbum), N Martyn (Leeds Litd); G Neville (Man Utd), G Le Saux (Blackbum), G Soutingale (Aston Villa), A Adams (Arsena), S Campbell (Tottenham), D Matteo (Liverpool), G Pallister (Man Utd), M Koown (Arsena); P Inco (Infernacionale), D Beckham (Man Utd), S Meldanamen

will (Foberha Graffster (Man Uh Graffster (Man U

No 1047

ACROSS

- l Queer, strange (8) 5 Quit; halt (4)
- 9 Quake, shiver (7)
- 10 Quid note (5) 11 Quiz, examination (4) 12 Quips; sudden charges (7)
- 14 Quid pro quo (6) 16 Oualification, proviso (6)
- 19 Quota, share (7) 21 Quieten (4)
- 24 Quick (5)
- 25 Quisling (7)
- 26 Queue (4) 27 Quarter, mercy (8)
- I Play across green (4)
- 2 El Greco birthplace (5) 3 Crustacean, had Quadrille
- 4 Opposed, loth (6) 6 Of the sense of touch (7)
- 7 One living off another (8)
- 8 Prevent stooge (4)
- 13 Suggestion, plan (8) 15 Act of twisting; state of
- being twisted (7)
- 17 Warm public praise (7) 18 Gradually introduce (idea) (6)
- 20 Tiny bit; Greek I (4) 22 Language of Horace (5) 23 Quarry (4)

The solution to 1046 will be published Wednesday, March 26

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tics employed by Manchester United in Oporto on Wednesday night, is also 22, but has 17 full caps to his name. The impetuosity, the recklessness in the tackle that once betrayed him. seems to be smoothing out.

Another youthful possibility is to call upon the the Liverpool triumvirate of Steve McManaman, who is, of course, almost an England old timer by comparison, Jamie Redknapp and Fowler.

There are suspicions that Redknapp, with his appetite to link the play and his passing ability, is a pivotal player in the mind of Hoddle. He may even eventually be recast as Redknapp the central defender, the potential Matthias Sammer for England; playing as a libero, reading the game from the rear, but turning defence into instant attack, with elegance.

It is some role, requiring some vision, but a host of professional managers believe Redknapp's potential is as yet untapped. And Fowler? In this match against Mexico, when the result is not paramount, surely the young, prolific goalscorer will be given his full elevation to lead the

national attack? It may not happen. There are club games aplenty before March 29, and even in these days when a doctor's sick note is mandatory, do not bet against a decimation of

Hoddle's chosen contingent. Of course, there are absentees before even a squad is contemplated. Seaman, Gascoigne, Merson, Shearer and Ferdinand are injured; Pearce is rested. Hoddle aware that the demands of playermanagement are extreme, not least when Pearce is trying to

Hoddle keeps faith with Le Tissier, despite criticism after his performance in the match against Italy save the FA Carling Premiership status of his club, Nottingham Forest. There are no such caveats about the omission of Platt, who is fit for Arsenal, but silently slipping past his prime for England. A prolific and wonderfully industrious contribution he has made, but time waits for no former England captain.

It does, however, recall two players whose England times seemed to be history. At last, for many of us who think that Nigel Martyn is the form goalkeeper, the Leeds player is selected by Hoddle, even if it has the ring of the closing of the stable door after lan Walker's unfortunate debut in the home defeat that mattered,

who had gathered outside

Dean Court fearing the worst.

long way from being out of the

wood, though they can now

complete their remaining fix-

Alan Lewis, the Receiver

sent in by Lloyds Bank, which

is owed £2.1 million, emerged

from the hearing to say that he

hoped to sell the club to one of

two interested investors by the

appointed date. "The dub's

fate is now in the hands of the

trust fund, which is one of

those attempting to take it over," Lewis said. "We may

need to sell a player by the

transfer deadline next week."

☐ The future of Stevenage, the

Vauxhall Conference champi-

ons, was left up in the air yesterday after a Football As-

sociation disciplinary panel

failed to reach a verdict over

allegations that the club asked

for a £30,000 bung from

Torquay United. A decision is

tures for the season.

But Bournemouth are a

against Italy, at Wembley. There is, more surprisingly, a recall to international arms for Martin Keown, the combative Arsenal defender. The England coach said yesterday that Keown, at 30, one of the youngsters around Highbury. is improving dramatically on the ball; the hidden tribute is that Arsène Wenger, Hoddle's mentor at Monaco, is smooth-

ing some rugged edges. And then there are Hoddle's acts of faith. He selects Darren Anderton, trusting that the Tottenham Hotspur player is for once fit to fulfil his gifts. He chooses Nick Barmby, even though Everton have not revived that little player's form. And there is Matthew Le starting point for that.

Tissier. The scapegoat of so many for the misapplied tactics and selection against Italy, Le Tissier remains synonymous with Hoddle's concept of how football should be played - a player of flair, perhaps of mood, but ultimately of skill, if the coaches dare trust it.

Earlier this week, Graeme Souness, the Southampton manager, only half trusted his captain in the club's dire need to win football matches. Hoddle, one presumes, will go all the way with Le Tissier, proving that belief has to be stubborn, and trying to demonstrate that both player and England coach were right all along. I hope Mexico is the

Bournemouth are granted last chance

BY ANDREW LONGMORE delight by fans of the club.

BOURNEMOUTH, the beleaguered Nationwide League second division club, has been granted one final chance to sort out the financial problems that have brought it close to extinction.

At a Chancery Court hearing in Liverpool yesterday, Judge Michael Howarth agreed to adjourn a windingup order brought against the club by the Inland Revenue.

The club now has a precious two months to attract new investors and restructure total debts that now stand at over £4.4 million. But, in rejecting the wind-

ing-up order, the sixth brought against the club, the judge warned that the £300,000 needed to pay the Inland Revenue would have to be in place by the time of the next hearing on May 15. "The Inland Revenue has waited long enough for its money. This is the club's last chance," he said.

The news was greeted with

Berti and Bassett may join forces

By RICHARD HOBSON

NICOLA BERTI could be the next Italian international to join the exodus from Serie A to English football. He will be released by Internazionale at the end of the season and his agent, Claudio Pasqualini, held talks with representatives of Nottingham Forest earlier this week

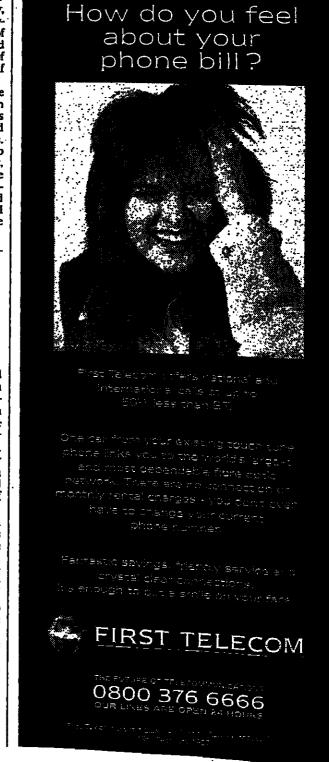
Dave Bassett, the Forest general manager, and Irving Scholar, the club's football consultant, watched Inter beat Anderlecht in the Uefa Cup in the San Siro stadium on Tuesday night and met Pasqualini the following morning. Under the Bosman ruling, no fee will be involved. However, any deal is likely to hinge on whether Forest manage to avoid relegation from the FA Carling Premiership. Berti, 29, a midfield player, has won 39 caps and played against Brazil in the 1994 World Cup final. He has been injured and missed selection for the European Champion-

ships last year.

Forest, who have completed the loan signing of Brian O'Neill, the Scotland international midfield player from Celtic, are undeterred by the failure of Andrea Silenzi, their previous signing from Italy. Silenzi scored just twice after his £1.8 million arrival from Torino in 1995 and was loaned to Venezia for the remainder of

this season last October. Brian Little, the Aston Villa manager, has confirmed his interest in Roy Makaay, the Holland international striker, but dropped a strong hint that he will not make a signing before the transfer deadline. Makaay, 22, is unlikely to leave Vitesse Arnhem until the summer.

Sky TV have secured the rights to screen England's vital World Cup clash against Italy. The World Cup qualifying tie, to be played in Rome on Saturday October 11. will be the final match in England's campaign for the 1998 World Cup finals.





CORRINE DUFKA FEUTE

Mobutu calls for national council as rebels plan polls

FROM SAM KILEY IN KINSHASA AND SUSAN BELL IN PARIS

ZAIRE'S ailing President Mobutu last night called for a ceasefire and the creation of a national council to resolve the crisis in his country.

Laurent Kabila, the rebel leader, has said that he will agree to a ceasefire only after negotiations with the President on how the Zairean leader, who seized power in 1965, will step down. Rebels now occupy more than a fifth of the country, and captured its third largest city. Kisangani on Saturday, raising fears of a coup in Kinshasa, the

Mr Mobutu was expected to fly home from France today to try to resolve the political crisis, which is veering from absurdist drama to dangerous farce. His son. Nzanga Mobutu, also the President's spokesman, said that his father no longer ruled out talks with the leaders of the rebellion, but wished first to discuss the issue with political and military leaders in Kinshasa. Previously the President had said he intended to crush the rebels. It was not clear if a ceasefire remained a prior condition for starting

Nzanga Mobutu also de-

nied reports that members of his family had fled to the Congo. Close family members were still with President Mobutu in France or had

remained in France, he said. The President left hospital in Monaco, where he has been receiving treatment after surgery for prostate cancer, on Wednesday to return to his luxury Riviera villa at Roquebrune-Cap Martin. His private plane has been on standby at Nice airport since Tuesday evening.

Yesterday his opponents and enemies jostled for positions in a collapsed Government while the rebels began organising elections in areas they control.

The Union for Democracy and Social Progress, the main opposition party in Kinshasa

Paris: France, President Mobutu's staunchest supporter, yesterday urged its citizens to leave Zaire (Susan Bell writes). It sent aircraft and about 100 troops to neighbouring Congo and Gabon in case it had to protect or evacuate an estimated 1.500 French nationals in Zaire.

that has failed to make an impact on Mr Mobutu's regime over the past six years, attempted simultaneously to ally itself with the eastern rebels and with the President.

Sitting in his garden under a mango tree Adrien Phongo, the party Secretary-General, yesterday announced that he was sending a delegation to open talks with Mr Kabila. These should lead to a ceasefire and a government of national unity which will then organise elections." Dr Phongo said.

Then, as news that President Mobutu was expected to return to Kinshasa filtered through, his bold rhetoric crumbled. With the look of a child caught opening his parents drinks' cabinet, Dr Phongo scrambled to ensure a secure future — should Zaire's big man regain control. "Of course, only the President can empower a prime minister,"

The President's wizardry has been eclipsed by the rebels' successes that were yesterday being cemented with the organising of elec-tions behind their lines for local administrative posts. In seven communes leaders will



Civilians in Kisangani welcome Zaire rebel leaders who plan to organise political meetings and hold elections for local officials within a week

be chosen who will, in turn, elect a mayor and provincial

governor, Mwanze Kongolo, the rebel justice commissioner, said: We are here to give them power denied them for so long. That is the basic message we have and to illustrate it, we will have visible, but not

Before he fell ill this is the sort of challenge Mr Mobutu would have relished. In the past 32 years he has run Zaire as his personal fieldom, seeing off countless rebellions and invasions, with the help of France, Morocco and Belgium. But, since the uprising his main concerns have been

his health and family.

under-equipped, has consistently given ground to the rebels. But, in common with his Opposition, Mr Mobutu has appeared unable to grasp that the rebels have the upper

American State Department officials and diplomats in Kinshasa said yesterday that Mr

His army unpaid and Mobutu and his entourage inder-equipped, has consis- appeared to be "in denial". over the extent and threat of the rebellion. They really don't seem to understand that Mobutu is not going to be able to come back and wave the magic fly whisk and barn -Kabila disappears," said a

European ambassador. Leon Kengo wa Dondo.

Zaire's Prime Minister, was "removed" by parliamentarians earlier this week under pressure from the army, which blamed him for the theft of funds intended for the war effort. But yesterday he returned from regional talks in Nairobi insisting that he was in charge of the bankruot

Man charged with Oklahoma bombing 'had Klan links'

FROM TOM RHODES IN WASHINGTON

TIMOTHY McVEIGH, in the Post said yesterday that three Morning News and Playboy most detailed account of his alleged role in the Oklahoma City bombing, has told his lawyers that his harsh antigovernment sentiments first found expression as a member of the Ku-Klux-Klan.

A fortnight before his trial opens in Denver, the chief suspect in America's worst act of terrorism is reported to have told his defence team that he joined the white supremacist organisation in 1992 shortly after being discharged from

Based on statements given to the lawyers, the New York years later and five days before his 27th birthday, Mr McVeigh drove a yellow Ryder van packed with explo-sives to Oklahoma City.

The next day he parked the van outside the Alfred Murrah building and detonated the device. The explosion ripped through the federal building, killing 168 adults and children and injuring more than 500 people in the vicinity.

The latest account of Mr McVeigh's involvement comes after a series of reported "confessions" in the Dallas

which resulted in demands by his lawyers that the trial should be postponed and moved to another venue. They said it would be impossible to select a fair jury in the circumstances.

Richard Matsch, the judge trying the case, ruled that jury selection will start in Denver as planned on Easter Monday despite an almost daily crop of articles which have done little to convince America that either Mr McVeigh, or his codefendant, Terry Nichols, can hope for a non-partisan panel of potential jurors.

Cartoon attracts Asian-American fire

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A CONFIDANT of Baroness Thatcher has been accused of anti-Asian racism after he published a magazine cartoon lampooning President Clinton's links to Chinese money. John O'Sullivan, an expa-

triate British journalist who helped the former Prime Minister with her memoirs and who now edits the right-ofcentre New York magazine National Review, commissioned a front-cover illustration for his publication's latest

The cartoon promoted an article about the Clinton Administration's ill-fated involvements with Asian supporters such as John Huang. James Riady and

officials from Beijing. It depicted a toothy Mr Clinton in a Chinese farmer's hat, holding a tray of tea, beside a Mrs Clinton dressed as Madame Mao. Vice-President Al Gore. who has been accused of illegally accepting political donations at a Buddhist temple, appeared in the cartoon as a monk holding a tin of cash. The caption read: The Manchurian Candidates.

Asian-American pressure groups saw an outrageous lur. Their reaction says much for the way some Asian-Americans would like the White House donations scandal to go; towards victimhood. The National Asian Pacific Legal Consortium, a lobbying

outfit which can perhaps be described as a garlic and ginger group, attacked the cartoon as "incredibly offensive", pointing to its "buckteeth and grotesque faces". NATIONAL

The Manchorian Candidates

The cover. "no chance

Organisation of Chinese Americans, demanded an apology from Mr O'Sullivan and his publisher, the veteran right-wing campaigner William Buckley We find the cover extreme-

ly offensive and racist," said-Ms Kwok. "There's an inability to distinguish between Asians and Asian-Americans, foreigners and US citizens. It is reminiscent of the caricature made of the Chinese in

The Asian-American Journalists' Association said that with the tea tray National Review had portrayed "Asians as servants of America". The Asian-American Legal De-

Daphne Kwok, director of the fence and Education Fund invisted that the cartoon suggested that Chinese Communists were brainwashing Washington.

Mr O'Sullivan reacted to the criticism with a zest which Lady Thatcher might recognise. They have not a snow ball's chance in hell of an apology." He called the charges "vile and slanderous" and detected "an orchestrated campaign by the Ethnic Grievance Industry".

The magazine has received many angry letters, said Mr O'Sullivan. He added: "The cover was a fine example of the political carricature that has been a glory of American debate since Thomas Nast."

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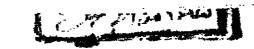
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Australia offers Papua its own army trainers in place of £20m hired soldiers

Mercenaries' contract is suspended to halt riots

FROM NOEL PASCOE IN PORT MORESBY AND ROGER MAYNARD IN SYDNEY

PORT MORESBY, the capital of Papua New Guinea, yesterday slid towards anarchy with rioting and looting while Sir Julius Chan, the Prime Minister, last night sought to ease tensions by suspending the reported £20 million contract with a British mercenary

One looter was decapitated when he was tackled by a knife-wielding security guard. and two people were injured as army and police fired on

Hooligans, meanwhile, took advantage of the unrest to carry away the contents of a supermarket; they then took refuge in a downtown barracks when police and mili-tary confronted them and fired teargas and live ammunition into the air to make them withdraw.

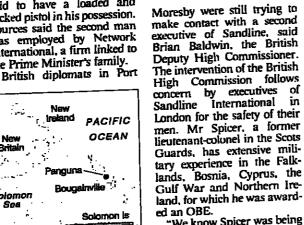
Sir Julius said the contract would be suspended until allegations of corruption were investigated in an agreement which Brigadier-General Jer-

Defence Force commander said could eventually cost the state £75 million.

The Australian Government urged an end to the mercenary contract and offered to replace the security firm, Sandline International, with an Australian Army force of trainers, according to diplo-

matic sources. A number of the British mercenaries have left Papua New Guinea over the past few days, and Tim Spicer, the Sandline chief executive, was freed from four days' arrest in a Port Moresby barracks.

Two men, one of them said to be a relative of Sir Julius, were arrested near the barracks. One was said to be armed with a 9mm German pistol with two magazines of ammunition, the other was said to have a loaded and cocked pistol in his possession. Sources said the second man was employed by Network International, a firm linked to the Prime Minister's family.



We know Spicer was being held by some of the Papua New Guinea defence forces who remain loyal to the previ-

General Jerry Singirok," Mr Baldwin explained. "But that's as far as we have got. We have not been able to make any

were prevented from

Looters run from a Port Moresby supermarket after police and the military had fired teargas and live ammunition to scare them off stand how the Government as long as it is proven to be could spend so much money on an international company legal and constitutional. Papua New Guinea is not a "serious credibility banana republic," he said. "It

has a democracy and a consti-tution." He said he began his problems". They were hired, he said, at a cost of nearly £20 million to revolt because the mercenarhelp to end the seccessionist ies were about to launch a conflict on Bougainville which military onslaught" on cop-per-rich Bougainville, 560 has been waged for the past miles northeast of the capital. General Singirok told a

What happens next may well depend on a demonstrapress conference that the contion by military opponents of the Prime Minister. The scale tract with the mercenaries had been pushed against his adof the protest, which has been vice and that of department planned to take place this heads. He said that one of the morning, will provide a guide to the level of continuing reasons he had not agreed with the contract was because opposition to Sir Julius, of the "historical performance whose position has been Sandline and Executive severely undermined by the Outcomes" in Third World events of the past few days. countries. He could not under-

Singirok: petition

Chefs in a stew over £36,000 banquet

FROM INIGO GILMORE IN CAPE TOWN

MORE than 100 guests pay-ing 250,000 rands (£36,000) a couple descended on Robben Island last night for a fundraising banquet at which they rubbed shoulders with President Mandela, Hillary Clinton, Bill Cosby, the actor and Kofi Annan, the United Nations Secretary-General.

The guests travelled by helicopter or ferry across the five miles of sea from Cape Town to the tiny island where Mr Mandela spent 18 of his 27 years in prison. Earlier in the day, Mrs Clinton had been escorted by Mr Mandela on a tour of the prison and his cell; they were followed later by Mr

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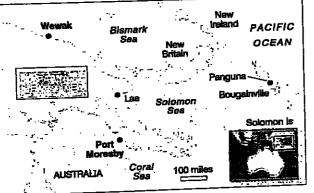
ith

In January, the island was declared a national monu-ment and proceeds of the evening will go to the island museum and political prisoners' fund, launched by Mr Mandela in October after a reunion of former political prisoners showed that many had fallen on hard times.

Last night the guests dined on salmon and trout tartare with cucumber salad, followed by beef consommé with chicken dumplings, stuffed baby chicken served with wild rice. topped off with fruit sorbet.

It seems unlikely that such an event will be staged again. Distressed caterers from a Cape Town firm spoke about how they endured three un-happy days on the choppy waters shipping across crock-ery, cutlery, food and glasses. Yesterday afternoon disaster struck when a minibus to be used to ferry guests around the island plunged into the sea after coming loose from the helicopter airlifting it in. After the incident the ban-

quet organisers decided not to ship the second one, just in case. It has been totally chaotic." Jason Lasker, 31, the head chef, said. "It has only been three days, but I am a nervous wreck.



Macau cyanide alert after river | Cuba offer

FROM JONATHAN MIRSKY IN HONG K

A LORRY loaded with 200 drums of sodium cyanide. used in electroplating, skidded into the West River which feeds into the Pearl River delta in Guangdong province. The people of Macau, fear-

ing pollution, were drinking bottled water last night. In the Portuguese colony and in Hong Kong preduce from across the border in China was being scrutinised.

At first it was reported that ten drums, each weighing

were missing. Authorities in Wuzhou, the town on the Guangdong-Guangxi border where the spillage occurred, now say all the drums have been recovered and only one had burst. Chinese authorities tend to minimise the scale of

the Pearl from which Macau draws much of its drinking water. By now this would have shown cyanide traces:

O.6 grams of cyanide are lethal. Hong Kong's water comes from a different branch of the Pearl, which does not take in West River water.

of many of the vegetables and shellfish imported into Macau and Hong Kong. In Macau, health officials say the local reservoirs are safe. but sales of bottled water have doubled.

thorities insist they alerted residents along the West River and ordered police to warn against using the water, re-porters say that local people either did not know of the danger or were ignoring it, continuing to draw drinking water from it, washing their clothes along its banks and

surface. Officials in Wuzhou said the water there contained only safe traces of cyanide.

Guango Guangdong 🖭 CHINA

SOUTH AMERICA CORRESPONDENT

The delta is also the source an capital.

Although the Chinese au-

Fisherman said that if the fish had been affected they would have floated to the

Pearl Rive

has said all along that he would never accede to the rehels' demands.



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50 kg, had burst and several

serious accidents. The West River flows into

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London for the safety of their nearby weapons arsenal. But men. Mr Spicer, a former lieutenant-colonel in the Scots doing so by other officers. Guards, has extensive mili-A petition signed by more tary experience in the Falkthan 4,700 soldiers - almost lands, Bosnia, Cyprus, the Gulf War and Northern Irethe whole army - demanded the immediate reinstatement

progress in getting hold of him and talking to him." At least five soldiers were seriously injured in the rioting, which prompted junior

ranks to try to gain entry to a

of General Singirok, who was sacked for urging the expulsion of the mercenaries. The general is urging a political solution to the crisis and says that he will accept his sacking

to Lima guerrillas By Gabriella Gamini

PRESIDENT Castro of Cuba has offered political asylum to the 18 marxist Tupac Amaru Revolutionary Movement rebels holding 72 hostages at the Japanese Ambassador's residence in Lima, the Peruvi-

The offer came yesterday after Señor Castro met a Japanese government envoy who appears to have sought his help to try to solve the 94day siege. Masahiko Kamura, the Japanese Deputy Foreign Minister, arrived in Havana on Wednesday with a letter from Ryutaro Hashimoto, the Japanese Prime Minister.

Earlier in the week Mr Kamura had visited Lima, where negotiations between the hostage-takers and Peru's Government remained at a stalemate amid heightening concerns over the hostages

Senor Castro yesterday said he hoped his offer would "speed up" negotiations to end the crisis. But the guerrillas have so far rejected various safe passage offers. Their leader. Nestor Cerpa Cartolini, 45, has also reiterated the rebels' demand for the release of more than 400 comrades

currently in Peruvian jails. Peru's President Fujimori

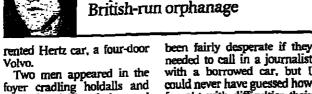
Helicopter gunships shadow dawn mission across mountains to answer SOS

Secret operation by special forces rescues orphans

WHAT ended in the dramatic special forces rescue of the staff and children of a beleaguered British-run orphanage in southern Albania began for me with a strange phone call on Wednesday evening. As I ate supper in a hotel in Tirana a waitress handed me a mobile phone. The voice on the other end was that of a British major I had met in the

army ten years ago. Hello, he said, have you got a car and might you be able to drive it for us?" I said I vould see what I could do.

There were several problems. First I had no car and would have to acquire one difficult as it was curfew in a capital already tense after the unrest of the past two weeks. A loval friend asked few questions and instead gave me the



Anthony Loyd reports how he left Tirana in a borrowed car to

help to save 22 children at a

foyer cradling holdalls and dressed in civilian clothes, and after picking up a couple more men, we arrived at the British Embassy. "Got life insurance, have you?" asked one soldier grinning. It was about all I had got - even the Volvo's fuel tank was as good as empty. The group introduced them-

selves by their first names and the major explained the problem. I had guessed the logistical situation must have

needed to call in a journalist with a borrowed car, but I could never have guessed how fraught with difficulties their In the last three days the situation in southern and east-

ern Albania had deteriorated rapidly. Following an ultima-tum by rebels for President Berisha to resign by yesterday or face possible attack in Tirana, many provincial towns, some of them previously untouched by violence, became torn by gangland fights.

In Elbasan, 38 trilles south of Tirana, the situation had become especially bad. The vendetta killing of a youth in the town on Tuesday had acted as a catalyst for escalat-ing violence in which the ing violence in which the police, equipped with tanks and apparently loyal to no outside authority, joined an internecine fight among local maila gangs whose arsenal had been supplemented with captured military weapons. There was an orphanage for

22 Albanian children in the centre of it all, run by a British couple, Mike and Judy Smith. together with a Dutch lady Joanda Van Sloten and a small Albanian staff. The orphans included victims of child abuse and the abandoned offspring of prostitutes and emigrants. The eldest child was eight years old, the youngest, three months.

Though the Smiths, who We were to go in at dawn in the three cars, reach the orphanage, fill our vehicles have been in Albania for four

two additional ones owned by the Smith's with the staff and children, and drive out again for the 90-minute journey back through the con-tested zone to Tirana. Two British Chinook helicopters.

> 6 Although the stakes still appeared to be

enormous, there was simply no alternative 9

converted to gunships, waited among hills near Elbasan as a Quick Reaction Force to deal with any opposition and to airlift us out if the road option failed. Although the stakes no alternative: the clock was ticking against the orphans

A soldier took me aside and briefed me on the use of their weapons and equipment which I remembered from my army service, in case push came to shove.

We departed at 5am. "If I buy it, for God's sake tell my wife I never loved her," one of the soldiers joked as we moved off, snaking southwards into the darkness along a crumbling road that climbed through dense fog and forest. At one point, a large Albanian police convoy emerged through the murk towards us. But it passed us without incident. As dawn shed its first light we broke through the mist. Elbasan lay beneath us

in a waterlogged valley. The early hour, driving rain and cold had lent us advantage. Yet as we entered the town, the veneer of peace was punctured by the sight of tanks marked "Police", stationed at road junctions on the empty streets; and soon the distant sound of automatic fire rippled into the quiet.

"You people certainly get some jobs," said Judy Smith as we backed the vehicles into the orphange's courtyard and the troops, jackets concealing chest webbing, moved off to guard the building. Tiny figures walked out into the daylight, grinning at the newly arrived men as the staff flustered around them pulling jackets over childrens' obstinate arms.

"It's got worse and worse here." Judy Smith added. "It began last week and then quietened until two days ago when the fighting started again. Bullets have been spraying around us."

With minimal fuss the children and staff were loaded into the vehicles. We pulled out of

the gates, now a convoy of five, and headed back out of the wakening rown before its people realised the presence of the strangers among them.

न्त्राए%

akell

I turned to look past the soldier beside me at the back-seat of the Volvo: four small faces met my gaze, the arm of a young Albanian child minder around their shoulders. None of them looked back at

The helicopters shadowed our route, finally lifting away as we entered Tirana. The embassy road was as deserted as when we left it little over three hours previously.
"Smooth one," a soldier

said, as the major entered the room. Another trooper entered looking worried. "Er, Boss," he said. "Two of those kids upstairs... they need their nappies changing".

Leading article and



John Smith from Swansea holds one of the Albanian orphans rescued from Elbasan in a mission by a team of British special forces

Britons to leave' By ANTHONY LOYD BRITISH special forces backed by helicopters yesterday mounted a successful operation to snatch 29 child-ren and staff from an orphanage in southern Albania that was in danger of being over-

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Children are 'last

whelmed by fighting as the region slid into a new wave of internecine conflict. Though they had originally rejected an offer by the British last week, Mike and Judy Smith, the two 61-year-old Britons running the House of Hope, were forced by the revived level of conflict to request evacuation on Wed-

nesday evening. They said

that gunfire was hitting the stone building and threaten-ing the lives of the children.

return to Elbasan.

This now completes the monwealth nationals who want to leave Albania," said Captain Graham Wiltshire, taché to Tirana.

The Smiths and their charges were at a safe house near the embassy last night recovering from the ordeal, and awaiting confirmation of asylum in Britain, which they insist shall be only until the rebellion ends and they can

operation for the evacuation of British. Irish and Comtemporary British defence at-

'Nuclear material smuggled to Italy in refugee exodus'

the offer of evacuation

they wanted to remain with

their charges - the sudden worsening of the situation

made their position untena-ble. By Wednesday evening

the town was degenerating into anarchy, with bullets from gun battles striking the

orphanage walls. The Smiths

rang the British Embassy in

Tirana at 8.30pm and asked

London, leaving the tiny

group of British soldiers in the

embassy with the unenviable

task of getting into Elbasan by

dawn, and out again safely to

Tirana with 22 children, three

expatriate staff and four Alba-

nian girls. The troops had two

vehicles at their disposal, a

Land Rover and a mini-bus:

hence the need for the rented

The mission was cleared by

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

PIER LUIGI VIGNA, Italy's top anti-Mafia prosecutor, yesterday held a summit in Bari of police chiefs from the main southern towns on how to tackle the crime wave which has followed the influx of well over 10,000 Albanian refugees, including the reported smuggling of radioactive material from Albania for sale

on the "black" arms market. Officials said ten "containers of radioactive material" had been stolen last Sunday by Albanians looting a "military-related installation" believed to be an arms factory

— at Fier, near Tirana. Officials declined to confirm that the smuggled consignment consisted of uranium or weapons-grade plutonium. "But we are not talking about radioactive waste," one official said.

Gazetta del Sud, published in Calabria, quoted Italian secret service sources as saying the missing radioactive material was "in the Otranto area", and had been smuggled in on one of the commanleered Albanian naval vessels that have arrived in southern Italy in the past week. The report said the material was 'very dangerous" if not han-

Insurance Services

dled properly. Gazetta del Mezzogiorno, published in Bari, said the nuclear material had been smuggled by Albanian gangsters, who had a track record of smuggling with the Italian Mafia.

In November last year, police at Brindisi intercepted a boat from Albania and seized four kilograms of liquid mercury, apparently designed for weapons manufacture. In June, 1995, a ship with uranium on board was reported to have sunk near Otranto, and the Finance Police seized a consignment



Vigna: crisis talks on growing crime wave

of white mercury from a Vlore-registered ship. Refugees at Bari said that they had seen Italian mafiosi buying Kalashnikovs and other weapons from Albanians.

A police spokesman in Lecce said southern Italian ports had become a "gateway to Europe" for smuggled goods. "We have tried to raise the alarm, but no one listens. They will listen when it's too late," he said. The spokesman said high-quality cannabis was being grown for export in greenhouses near Vlore.

'So much marijauana has arrived in Italy in the past few days that the street price has dropped dramatically," he said. "There is also a huge trade in human beings. Many of the Albanian women coming to Italy end up as prostitutes under Mafia control." Meanwhile, the Italian For-

eign Ministry denied reports that Paolo Foresti, the Ambassador to Tirana for the past three years, was about to be replaced. A spokesman said Signor Foresti had been appointed Italy's Ambassador to the Western European Union (WEU), but would remain in Tirana until the present crisis was resolved.

Ministers ask EU for \$210m

FROM TOM WALKER

ALBANIA'S new Government has asked the European Union for \$150 million (£94 million) to help to ease its balance of payments deficit, Ministry of Finance officials in the country said yesterday. It also wants \$60 million to begin reconstructing its shattered tax, finance and customs structure.

The country is virtually incapable of raising any money. There are no customs offices - so trucks that manage to cross the border pay no tax - and mechanisms for taxing the population have all but disappeared. The sources also had some

bad news for southern rebels in Gjirokaster, who two days ago stole the state treasury safe but have been unable to dynamite it open. "I'm afraid it's empty," said an official. There was relative calm in Tirana, the capital, yesterday,

and a deadline set by the rebels for the resignation of President Berisha passed without comment. The rebels, led by Agim Gozhita, a former army general, will meet today in Tepelene to discuss their

Appear in a FEATURE FILM?

Wilde Films PLC is offering 750,000 of its shares for subscription under the Enterprise Investment Scheme (EIS') to finance an up and coming British feature film based on the play "An Ideal Husband" by Oscar Wilde. The minimum investment is 1000 "B" ordinary shares of 50p each at a price of £1 per share. (minimum investment - £1000)

> eer in the film at an extra and watch a day's shooting Potential tax benefits of up to 60% under the EIS • Potentially capital gains tax free after five years •

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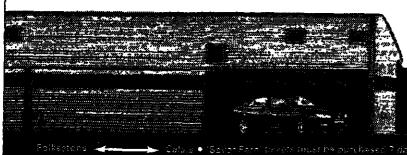




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Palestinian youths protesting against the building of the settlement for 32,000 Jews at Har Homa defy rubber bullets and fight back with slingshots and stones as Israeli troops guard the Bethlehem tomb yesterday

Riot sweeps Bethlehem over Jewish settlement

THE streets of biblical Bethlehem were filled yesterday with clouds of teargas and the crack of rubber bullets as hundreds of Palestinians stormed Israeli troops guarding the tomb where the Matriarch Rachel was buried after dying while

giving birth to Benjamin. The students, armed with stones and home-made bombs, were staging what was billed as the first of many street protests against Israel's decision to send in bulldozers to begin construction at nearby Har Homa, where a settlement for 32,000 Jews is being built on land annexed by Israel after the 1967 war.

This is just a small foretaste of what is to come." claimed one Palestinian journalist as the chanting demonstators burst through lines of Palestinian police in the self-rule town which overlooks the contested hillside of

About 150 Israeli troops defended the tomb after moving Jewish worshippers and

Digital

'safe'

phones

cracked

FROM BRONWEN MADDOX

IN WASHINGTON

HOPES that the new generation of cellular telephones

would be safe from eavesdrop-

ping were smashed yesterday

when technical experts crack-

ed the electronic code designed

The warning that digital

phones may be no more secure

than the old analogue variety

was greeted with alarm yester-

day. In the past two years, public figures and business people have bought digital phones in the belief that they

would protect them from em-

on every celebrity's mind by

tapes of calls made by the

Prince of Wales and Diana.

Princess of Wales. In December, a Florida couple also

tives, huge embarrassment by taping a call in which he

plotted tactics with colleagues. Mr Gingrich's experience revealed that thousands of

private individuals in America

available, in order to overhear

Then yesterday two comput-

er security analysis and a

university researcher who set

out to test the new digital phones security said that the digital code could be broken in

minutes by anyone with basic technical skills and a powerful

Their claim is a blow to the new digital networks springing up across the US. The

success of the "hackers" does

not yet affect the European digital cellular system, known as GSM, which has much

Lifetime from HealthCare

tougher security.

F1 -112014

private calls.

caused Newt Gingrich, Sp er of the House of Representa-

barrassing interceptions. The lack of security of analogue calls was imprinted

to protect privacy.

tourists.At Har Homa, about two miles from the fighting

wounded and 20 overcome by gas, Yitzhak Mordechai, Israel's Defence Minister, issued a warning to the Palestinians about the consequences of exploiting today's noon pray-ers in the mosques. He spoke out because he said that Israel had received intelligence reports that violent protests were being planned to follow the Friday prayer sessions.

The fury and frustration of the Palestinians was tangible on the streets. "Jabal Abu Ghneim, we are coming to liberate you," shouted the crowd, referring to the Arabic name for Har Homa. As the clashes continued for three hours, both the Palestinian police and Israeli troops who unusually used water cannon - had to rush in

We gave the Israeli Government a chance for peace, but they blew it," said one of

Takatka, "We want to show them that we can respond and we are still a nation." Al-though Bethlehem has been handed over to the Palestine Liberation Organisation, Israel remains in charge of the heavily fortified tomb on its

The anger of the Palestinians was intensified by reports that, under cover of darkness, five Jewish families had moved into apartments in an Arab house in Silwan, another part of annexed east Jerusalem, which hardline Jews claim as part of the biblical

city of David.

The office of Binyamin Netanyahu, the Prime Minister, denied that he had given his blessing to the move, but a senior supporter of his coali-tion. Hanan Porat of the National Religious Party, was on hand to supervise the 3am arrival of the Jews to take up residence in the mainly Pales-

tinian neighbourhood. Amin Šian, a Palestinian

Iranian-backed Hezbollah. Lebanese security sources said that the attack near the village

of Hermel, five miles from the Syrian border, was the first since the 1982 Israeli invasion

resident of Silwan, situated below the walls of the Old City

of Jerusalem, said: "I think the

Jews want to take the whole of

Jerusalem. Already there are about 400 who have moved into houses here." The Silwan and the desired that the silvan had been already to silvan had

settlers claimed that they had

legitimately purchased the

As what Israeli papers have termed "the battle for Jerusa-

lem" gathers pace, Yassir Arafat delivered an angry

speech to the Palestinian Leg-

islative Council in Gaza. Isra-el must know it cannot play

with the issue of Jerusalem," he said. "Without Jerusalem,

the capital of Palestine, there

will be no peace in the world."

mounted. Israeli warplanes

struck deep into Lebanon,

hitting targets manned by the

As Arab-Israeli tension

UN plan

After extensive consultation with UN members, Razali Ismail of Malaysia proposed that five new states should become permanent members of the Security Council and four new non-permanent members should be included.

NEWS IN BRIEF

for bigger council

the United Nations General Assembly yesterday offered a compromise proposal to en-large the 15-nation Security permanent members.

Baghdad: Lorries carrying chick peas, beans and vegetable oil — the first food bought with Iraqi oil under a UN humanitarian deal - arrived. three months after Baghdad

had bought police scanning equipment, which is widely

Towers. He faces a year in

Council to 24 seats incorporating new permanent and non-

Iraq gets food

resumed oil exports. (AFP)

Shipyard claim

Warsaw: As demonstrations continued against the threatened closure of the Gdrask shipyard, the Polish Prime Minister said he believed he could save 2,000 of the yard's 3,600 remaining jobs. (AP)

Surprise exit

Hamilton: David Saul, the Prime Minister of Bermuda, has resigned unexpectedly. Mr Saul, 57, said he had achieved the objectives he set

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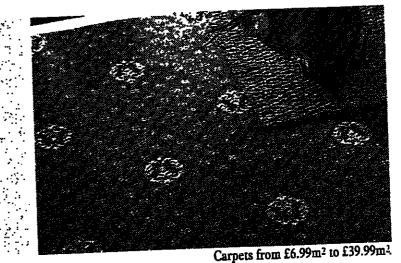


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CHIRTS - At Thomas Jerniya Street, SW1. Newly



If you can't talk about interior design, you're a nobody, says Joe

Forget sun-dried tomatoes, the new big thing is decorating

feeling, because if it hasn't already happened to you, it has almost certainly happened to someone you know. You come home and open the front door to be confronted by that chilling vision of rooms which have been stripped bare; not a TV set or video recorder left; no furniture; all your favourite knick-knacks gone; they've even taken the carpets. And then the icy truth dawns. An interior decorator has been in your flat. You have become a

But if you don't like the look. don't worry. Unless you are Ranulph Fiennes and are feeiing homesick for the South Pole, there is no compulsion to paint and uphoister absolutely everything in white. You don't

any more than you have to with wearing only Versace or Karan every day. If tomorrow you want to switch to "Moroccan ethnic", there are a dozen books to advise you how to magic up the mood of Marrakesh in Morden. Food? Oh, forget it. Stop

flying to Tuscany every weekend to buy rare farmhouse olive oil that nobody else has heard of. The world has turned. Well-off thirtysomethings who already own 12 Armani suits, a Bulthaup kitchen, have memorised the River Café Cookbook and own a larder full of ingredients they can't pronounce without tak-ing Berlitz classes, have found a new craze they can whine about over dinner and spend their bonuses on: decorating.

Go take a look in your local

Waterstone's: it has been turned over to decorating manuals. The Conran Shop in London brims every Saturday morning with people who were weaned on The Face and ID: these people not only know the difference between Jasper Morrison and Tom Dixon, they care.

Whenever a shop site has fallen vacant over the past few years in chi-chi Notting Hill. in west London, a fancy boutique has opened the next morning. But the noisiest arrivals have been shops selling expensive modern furniture. Once we were grateful for

those sensible decorating tips you got from Reader's Digest (Example: "Don't scumble in public - it's rude"). Later, World of Interiors and Elle Decoration provided ideas for enthusiastic do-it-yourselfers and voyeuristic entertainment that authentic 18th-century for armchair decorators; then emulsion in your hall. a few months ago the maga-

Technicolor dream: from London to Glasgow, the coolest interiors are the ones with the most vibrant colour schemes

zine Wallpaper - subtitled

The Modern Homemaker -

entered our lives, edited by the

tastefully named Canadian

the shoe designer Patrick Cox.

says interior design is being

taken more seriously because

people aren't looking at prop-erty as a way of making a

quick buck but as the cocoon

in which they will be spending the next decade of their lives.

His target market is women.

gay men and rich City types, but the fascination with interi-

ors has spread far, far wider. We are all interior decora-

tors now. So what if some new

shop in Brewer Street sells the

best prosciutto in England?

Just tell us who hand-mixed

Brûlé, long-time partner of

style journalist Tyler Brûlé.

Decorating is suddenly hipper than sex - and by decorating we don't mean putting up bookshelves you bought from Homebase. We mean a carefully thought-out room plan that makes a nod to Mies van der Rohe, but is at the same time undercut with a hint of knowing irony — the sort that says: "Hey, I know God is in the details, so when I invite people over to dinner I tell people what shade of sofa they will be sitting on so that all the colours don't jar." Today we measure out our

lives not in coffee spoons but in Arne Jacobsen "Ant" chairs. The coolest interiors in London and Manchester and Glasgow have become so plagued with Day-Glo coloured Ant chairs that when the backlash comes we will need to bring in Rentokil to deal with the infestation.

You find Modernism too bleak? There's room for you, too. Experiment with traditionally made paints. This week the specialist paint-maker Farrow & Ball launched a new collection of striped wallpapers in all the 95 colours from its National Trust and Archive paint ranges (using run-of-the-mill Dulux emulsion is like still using dried tomatoes in the kitchen). The new wallpapers are produced in "the traditional 19th-century way" and cost £26.95 a roll.

Apart from all the new decorating books, the surest sign that interior decorating has supplanted food as Britain's newest armchair hobby are the TV programmes devoted to the subject. BBC 2's Home Front draws audiences

> 'It's cheaper to keep your old decor and drink a lot instead'

of four million. It has been joined by Changing Rooms—a cross between Blind Date and Candid Camera, in which people redecorate their resignations. neighbour's house with the help of an interior designer. In the pipeline for May is Real Rooms, on BBC1: decorating hit squads descend on a house and give it a makeover. You still think interior decorating is just for the rich or the effete? Then look out for Challenge Cheggers, a pro-gramme scheduled to go out on BBCl at 9.20am every morning from the autumn. In this, Keith Chegwin and his band of decorators and gardeners will descend on an unsuspecting street every

week and give it a facelift. What next? Probably Bruce Forsyth compering a game show in which celebrities (Ulrika Jonsson, Ben Elton, Sir George Solti) take on DIY experts to answer such questions as: "Starck is the name of what. (a) a French designer. (b) a German minimalist art movement, or (c) a wax used to

But don't rush ahead blindly. There's no point spending thousands rearranging your house only to find yourself ● The Ultimate Interior Designer by Ruth Pretty, (Cassel £20) Decorating Entrances, Stairways and

> Justin Meath Baker and Christopher Neville. working as Baker Neville - just completed Cobden Dining Club Claire Nelson -

Decorating Magic by

John Sutcliffe, (Frances

locasta Innes, Frances

Instant Decorating

by Stewart Walton and

(Conran Octopus £10.99)

● The New Apartment Book by Michele Michael.

Elizabeth Wilhide.

(Aurum £16.95)

Lincoln £18.95)

Lincoln £20)

Paint Magic by

interior design. • Jenny Armit -

combines architecture, design and decoration

exeptionally experienced • Emily Todhunter popular here and abroad • Kelly Hoppen -

■ Malcom Beckett — Soho-style loft designer:

falling sick because you have

put everything in an inauspi-

cious place. Consult a leng

Feng shui is an oriental

system of arranging furniture

so as to improve your chances of being healthy, happy and rich. Big in America — Donald

Trump uses it. The reason you

haven't heard about it already

is that you have been posi-

tioned in the wrong place -

feet, here are some decorating

tips gleaned from the latest

manuals to get you over the initial hump of ignorance at

now, but be careful: a person

who is convinced he is living in

a Victorian terrace house in

Fulham will be unset to find

that his neighbour's house has

been turned into something

homely enough for a family of

Don't let toddlers dictate

your decor, unless you are prepared to live with walls in a

wipe-clean orangey-brown

and a flecked carpet that

already looks as if it is studded

and then yourself: can I count

Study kitchen design books

with squashed raisins.

Masai tribesmen.

your next dinner party. Tribal is fashionable right

or those of you who have not realised that

a trend has been

growing around your

shui expert first.

namely Europe.

Sutcliffe, (Frances Lincoln

Landings by Susan Berry, (Cassel £12.99) ● Paper Magic by Jane Gordon-Clark, (Frances Lincoln £18.95)

 The Art of Kitchen Design by Johnny Grey, (Cassel £18.99) Kevin McCloud's

Decorating Book, (Dorling Kindersley £22.50) The Complete Home

Decorating Book by Nicholas Barnard, (Darling Kindersley £19,99) Modern House by John Welsh, (Phaidon £40)

• Trade Secrets: Jocasta Innes, (Phoenix £12.99) Painted Furniture:
 Jocasta Innes, (Mitchell

Beasley £14.99) California Cottages by Diane Dorrans Saeks, Chronicle Books

restaurant and domestic recognised for her gilded

exquisite taste Charles Rutherford - one of new breed who

Mary Fox Linten -

Chunky 50s coloured

 Anything by Charles Eames, eg, butterfly chair, Voia taps, cutiery (must be the real thing) SMEG AMerican stainless steel fridges Donna Karan scented candles

 Large fish tanks containing tropical fish Tom Dixon furniture and lighting ● Electric "Hampton Beach-style" bar blenders Gucci alarm clocks American electric

juicers Muji Japanese storage containers in cardboard or plastic Fake suede or animal skin, especially zebra Anything in brightly coloured felt

• Purves & Purves, 80, 81 & 83 Tottenham Court Road, WI (0171-580 8223) ● Space, 214 Westboure Grove, W11 (0171-229 6533) Tom Tom 70s

Furniture, 42 New Compton St, WC2 (0171-240 7909) Aram Design, 3 Kean St. WC2 (0171-240 3933) • 20th Century Design 274 Upper St, NI (0171-288

● Viaduct: i Summers St, ECI (0171-278 8456) Mathmos 179 Dury Lane. WC2 (0171-404-6605)

Central: 33-35 Little Clarendon St, Oxford (01865 311141) Nice House; 83A Candle Riggs, Glasgow (0141-248 1373) • Lloyd Davies, 14 John Dalion St, Manchester (01606 77277) • Both Calvin Klein and Prada are planning to open homeware shops in the UK before the end of this year

• Egg. 36 Kinnerton St. SWI (0171-235 9315)

on my greengrocer to supply me with the perfectly shaped, shiny fruit all top kitchens

have on display? There is a fashion for bold geometric paint schemes cross between retro-Prada and Bridget Riley. It's cheaper to stick with your current decor and drink heavily instead. Four large whiskies produce the same visual effect at considerably less cost.

Interior design is pricey, so work out what you can afford. You do this by dividing the size

of your mortgage by six. This gives you a budget that you can be confident will make interior decorators shrick with amused derision.

Compiled by Celia Goodrick-Clarke

If you're just about to jump on to the decorating bandwagon, remember that in the world of lifestyle trends, "all isflux, nothing is stationary", as the great design guru Heracli-tus said. To the groovy kids. interior decorating is already sse. They itch to move on. To where? Probably do-ityourself invasive surgery.

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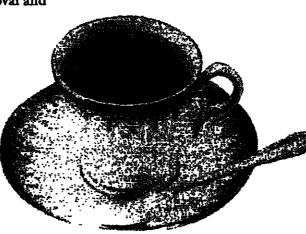
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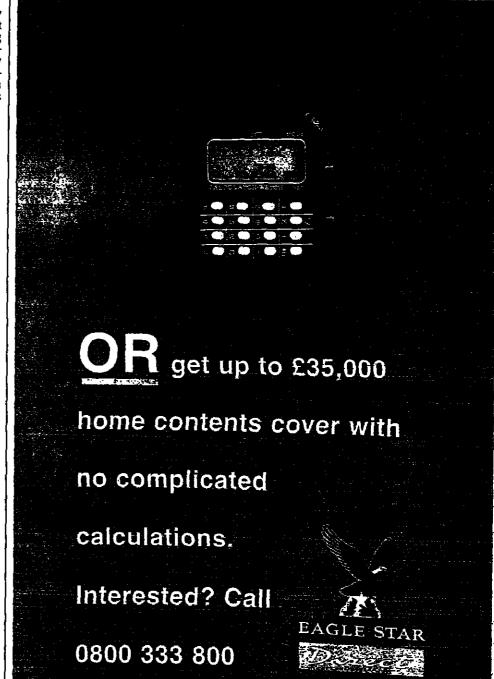
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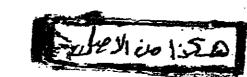
In the good old days Darjeeling tea was a rare commodity. Today it is available in quality stores in attractive chestlets, tins or packets - loose leaf or tea bags. And to be sure you are drinking the real thing, look for the Darjeeling Logo on the pack - that is our seal of approval and your guarantee of quality.

For more information write to: Tea Board of India, India House, Aldwych, London WC2.

India Tea perfect anytime







Writing poetry into Ireland's history

Roy Foster is the first Professor of Irish History at Oxford and the biographer of W.B. Yeats who, he says, is the voice of Ireland's cultural consciousness coming to maturity

VALERIE

GROVE

INTERVIEW

am slightly surprised that English people GET Yeats as much as they do," Professor Roy Foster muses, "And indeed that Americans do so at all. Didn't Clint Eastwood and Meryl Streep plight their troth with lines from Yeats in The Bridges of Madison County?"

We all love Yeats. In the BBC's ballot to find the nation's favourise poems, he was the only poet mentioned twice - beating Wordsworth, Kipling, Tennyson - with "! will arise and go now" and "Tread softly because you tread on my dreams". As a nation we fancifully respond to yearning wistfulness.

We like being reminded that a pity beyond all telling is hid in the heart of love, that our well-beloved's hair has threads of grey,

that one should never give all the that the world's more full of weeping than a child can understand. And if we prefer to hear such sentiments recited in the Irish tongue, it is largethanks Yeats's genius in remventing, and making culturally fashionable, a

mythic, bloodmantling Celtic

twilight world of faerv. where mouse-grey waters flow, where Cuchulain, Fergus and Aengus, and other heroes, banshees and revenants danced.

This makes Yeats a tricky subject. especially for an historian. Years inspires possessiveness. Everyone feels they own a bit of him. that he means something special to

"But to me he is an inseparable part of the era of Irish history I am most interested in, 1865 to 1939. Yeats is one of the geat actors in Irish history; the voice of Irish cultural consciousness coming to

Oxford's first Professor of Irish History - "the delicious Roy Foster as his publisher calls him is 48, tall and lean, green-eyed, floppy-haired, with a mellifluous oice. I asked a Southern Belle with a fine sense of male allure how she rated Roy Foster. "On a scale of one to ten," she said, batting her eyelashes, about fifty."

I found him at Hertford College, in a stage set of a don's study, spilling over with books. Sunk into an armchair by the fire was another Irish poet and fellow Fellow, Tom Paulin, who was about to give a class on Samson Agonistes, and what were they discussing? Liam and Noel Gallagher, Danny Baker and Chris Evans. (Paulin, without irony, drawled of Baker and Evans:

"Those accents — I caan't staand them.") They also grumbled about John Carey's review of Foster's book - but was there ever dog that praised his fleas? Anyway, other critics have called it magisterial. magnificent, "a master work" and other superlatives.

Foster's predecessor as Yeats's biographer, F.S.L. Lyons, spent ten years preparing to write, sat down at his desk and immediately collapsed and died. When the Yeats family asked Foster to take it on, ten years ago. Foster was in the throes of writing his Modern Ireland, 1600-1972. Friends advised him "don't do it; don't shackle yourself to a great man". He might toil for years, and never do any-thing else. But Foster was undaunted by the vastness of the enterprise,

persed in libraries across America, the prospect of unravelling the multinle levels on which Yeats lived.

Foster embod ies the Irish mind at its quickest he is a vivid reporter and a witty re viewer. Nobody writes more eloquently on the two countries separat-ed by the Irish Sea and divided by their common language. Last week-

end he was in Dublin, judging the Ewart-Biggs Memorial Prize for Anglo-Irish understanding.

How Irish is he? He bridles at this "dangerous" question. "Being asked 'If you're a Protestant, are you completely Irish?' is exactly what Yeats had to contend with."

The answer is that Foster, like Yeats, is as Irish as can be. He was the only son (with three sisters) of schoolteachers at a progressive Quaker school, Newtown, in Waterford. His father has never been to England. At 17 Robert Fitzroy Foster, known as Roy, left this Jack Yeats landscape ("craggy faces outlined against wild Atlantic skies") and went to Baltimore on a Ford scholarship.

Te wanted to stay in America, but his parents hauled him home to Trinity College Dublin. "I probably would have become a hopeless acid-head - or been tear-gassed, as I was a peacenik. and it was 1966. Trinity was not so politicised. Though 1 did throw a bag of flour at the Queen of the Belgians' car." (It missed.)

He might also have been braindrained like other historians (Simon Schama, David Cannadine) who have found academic celebrity in America. Instead, he fetched up at Birkbeck College, London, where he stayed 17 years



"Yeats was presented to me, as to most Irish people, as this grand panjandrum figure, walking the Dublin streets in his cloak as my parents saw him when they were students'

and ran the history department until, encouraged by his mentor the late historian Angus Macintyre, he arrived in Oxford in 1991. He would have left Birkbeck for nothing less than this pioneering chair.

Yeats himself was captivated by Oxford, when he went to translate Aesop's fables in the Bodleian for £5, subsisting on currant buns. "I wonder anybody does anything at Oxford but dream . . . the place is so beautiful. One almost expects the people to sing instead of speaking. It is ... like an opera." he wrote. Foster feels much the same. He can gaze enraptured by moonlight on the Radeliffe Camera and the Bodleian at his door. It certainly beats Kentish Town, whence he commutes weekly, and where his wife Aisling (now writing her second novel) lives with their children Phineas and Nora.

Years, born into the declining Protestant bourgeoisie with a cold, sad mother, and painter father, grew up in the artistic milieu of suburban Bedford Park, with its de Morgan tiles and aesthetically correct flowers. Foster brilliantly

paints this fin-de-siècle background canvas. Here young WB was a sucker for any occult nonsense, astrology, spiritualism, seances, theosophy, necromancy. But through plundering arcane ideas

he cultivated his sense of the poetic.

He also developed his own style - the black velvet coat, the arty pose into the dramatic figure in the famous portrait, which Daniel Day-Lewis uncannily

resembles. "It surprised me that he lived more in England than in Ireland: he spent more time near Euston station than he did at Coole Park." (Foster wandered by the lake at Coole with An-

drew Motion, the poet; there were no wild swans about.) In Woburn Buildings, the undomesticated Yeats turned a modest flat into a salon. Though his own entertaining facilities were "limited by his cutlery", Yeats became quite grand and dined with Churchill.

Yeats was presented to me, as to most Irish people, as this grand panjandrum figure, walking the Dublin streets in his cloak, as my parents saw him when they were students in the late Thirties. Greatness hung about him. He died

surrounded by this im-

age, and by that too Don't do much quoted Auden poem about him being 'silly like us'. But Ì it; don't formed more affection and fascination for him shackle as I followed his childhood to the engaging yourself to and sometimes scatty

young man; you gather a great the humour and passion and quickness man' that's there, under the carapace of greatness."

Last night's Night Waves on Radio 3 featured a recording of Yeats reading, in a portentously rolling monotone, The Lake Isle of Innisfree ("that uniortunate poem" as Leavis called it). Yeats was forever haunted by the popularity of the over-anthologised poem, which had been inspired by

thoughts of Sligo - where his wealthy grandparents, the Pollex-fens, lived — while looking into a shop window in the Strand. The earliest version is misspelt and does not scan, but Foster regards the process by which the poem reached its "shimmering perfection" as

outside his historical brief. "I am not trained to do it. Brilliant critics from Ellmann to Donoghue to Deane have scrutinised the poems. In any case, I love Yeats's prose, its cadence and modulation and brilliance.

In his deconstruction of Yeats's life, there are many hilarious moments. Foster gives a first airing to a limerick, found in the archive at Austin, Texas, by Oliver St John Gogarty about poor little rich girl Miss Annie Horniman, the tea heiress, who fruitlessly pursued Willie Yeats, who "in any case isn't a horny man". Yeats was a late developer, still unmarried at 49 when this volume ends. But his affairs with women who tended to be unattainable - Maud Gonne, Florence Farr, Olivia Shakespear - and the productive, non-sexual friendship with Lady Gregory. amounted in Foster's view to "a

eats, Foster says, could not but be enthralled by bronze-haired, Valkyrian Maud Gonne. Foster did not expect to like Maud: "A Shelleyan princesse lointaine, equipped with great height, tragic beauty and secret sorrows. But I became sympathetic to her because of her awful life; I love her style, and her letters. Though no she could drive you mad."

Our interview ended as a lucky female undergraduate arrived for a tutorial. Recalling how women flocked to the Yeats lectures of Dr Denis Donoghue, to hear the Irish voice. I inquired whether he was ever troubled by those accusations of sexual harassment to which Oxford is prone. "Cerrttainly nottt! Whatt an outra-a-geous sugges-tion!" he cried. For the next volume, and to discover why should not old men be mad? we shall have to wait, agog, until 2000.

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When a princess grows up

the effects of good children's literature. There's something about the books we loved be-tween the ages of eight and 12 of her childhood that ensures they're never forgotten. The book that changed my life when I was ten - and not necessarily for the best - was A Little Princess by Frances Hodgson Burnett. The terrible truth is that Sarah Crewe, the princess of the title, with her ladylike stoicism and her belief that goodness will be rewarded if only we don't make a tuss, is with me to this day - and serving me very hadly in the competitive Nineties. Sometimes I think I'd he

better off with Fagin or Captain Hook as my exemplars. Wanting to reread a fav-ourite childhood book is one of those trivial yet important reasons for having children. For years, bedtimes can be an excuse to reread The Wolves of Willoughby Chase and The Family at One End Street, I've been known to sit up long after the children have gone to

sleep, reading their books all over again. But the trouble with living your life according to the morals of a children's hook any children's book - is that children's books are simple and adult life is complicated. (I was at it again the other day: when some career decision required me to he brave, what image did I summon up? The face of Asian from one of the Narnia books, with his most vicar-ish expression.) The other difficulty with these books is that they can still prompt us into the most romantic gestures. A friend of mine suddenly upped and left behind an unhappy love affair and a London career to

become a primary school

teacher in Devon, None of us

could understand such a dramatic volte-face until (

Rachel Morris rereads the books

remembered her favourite books when we first met, aged 1112 - the Miss Read stories: quiet tales of a village teacher from a bygone age. Children's books, like adult novels, can sometimes change your life. These days my daughter

reads to herself, but now that I've grown wise to the dangerous effects of some children's classics I worry about what's going on in the privacy of her bedroom. The other day I looked at the Brian Jacques books in which she's been

bloodthirsty. A medieval ab-bey and a band of mice are forever struggling against the forces of evil. Death and villainy is alive on every page. Characters are made appealing - then killed before our eyes. But the message of these books - that you have to fight for what you want, that women cannot be passive, that loyalty and comradeship are the most important virtues - is as likely as anything to stand her in good stead 30 years from now. Just so long as they don't encourage her to become a mercenary. In which case I her A Little Princess.

readable books are hugely

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Philip Howard



Low jinks at Greyfriars: Bunter and the tuck-for-questions affair

It was end of term at Greyfriars,
Westminster. So a spirit of holiday
happiness had spread through the
Remove. Some of the seniors (who were not
coming back next term, having been literally
"removed" from the school by their parents)
had lost all sense of their position as treffers. had lost all sense of their position as prefects, and were singing: "Hark the Black Rod Ushers shout, 'One more day and we'll all be out." And the juniors had gone wild with terminal excitement. They waved their handouts in the air to beat time as they squeaked and gibbered: "No more sleaze and no more stench. No more sitting on the hard back bench. No more Major, no more Blair, No more ignoral by the Chair."

"Bunter!" The Speaker's voice was not loud, but deep. It was heard distinctly by all ears in the Big School form-room: excepting, apparently, one pair of very fat ears. "BUNTER!" The Speaker's voice was much louder, and much deeper. Still Bunter did not reply. But, as if in answer to the Speaker, a sound came from the Fat Owl of the Chamber. Snore! Bunter generally snored when he slept. In the Remove dormitory. Bunter's deep snore was wont to rumble on through the night, like the unending melody in Lloyd Webber music - not perhaps quite so musical. So far he had not snored in class. Now he did! Though how he did in the uproar was a

question for Old Stinks, the chemistry beak.

"Bless my soul!" ejaculated the Speaker.

"The boy is asleep! Skinner! Awaken that boy." Skinner reached over to awaken him. Harry Greenway or Bob Hughes would have given the Fat Owl a shake. But Skinner was not a good-natured fellow. Skinner's method of awakening Bunter was to take a fat ear between finger and thumb, and pull-He took a good grip on Bunter's ear -- there

was plenty of room for it - and pulled. It awakened the Honourable Member. It awakened him quite suddenly. Billy Bunter came out of the land of dreams with a jump and a yell. "Yaroooh! Ow! Leggo my ear, you beast! Wow! I say, you fellows — yow-ow. Ow! I say, Tain't the division bell yet." Bunter jerked his fat ear away from Skinner, rubbed it, and blinked round him dizzily, under the impression that he was in an armchair in the Members' smoking-room.

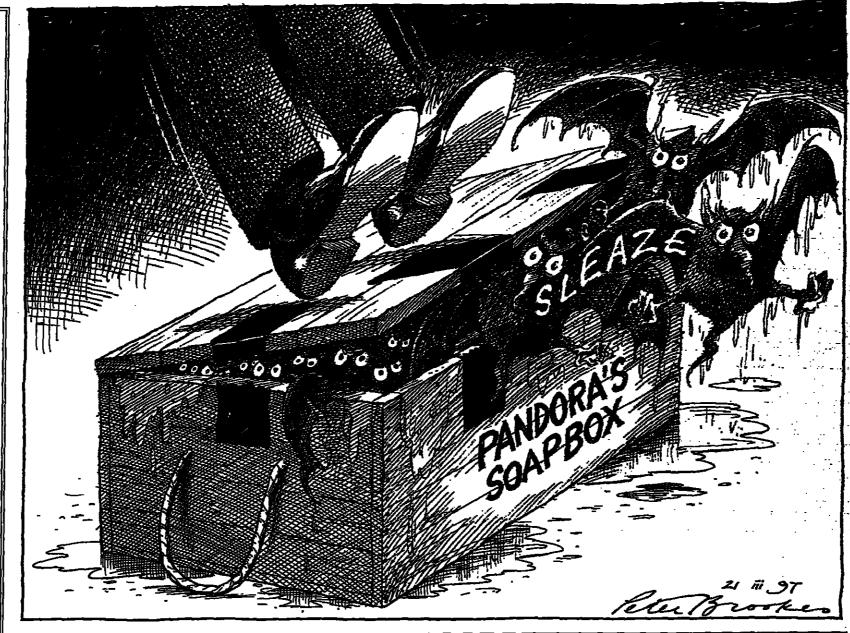
"Bunter!" thundered the Speaker. "You were asleep in class, Bunter. And you have not yet answered my tuck-for-questions prep. "The Owl of the Remove blinked in terror. "I - I had my eyes shut, because - because I listen better with my eyes shut. I — I was listening very carefully, Madam Speaker. It was so — so interesting. And what was it that you said about tuck for questions?"

t the mention of the magic word A corners of Bunter's fleshy mouth. "tuck", a fat smile twitched at the From there it spread slowly over his greasy face, as a spoonful of strawberry jam spreads out over semolina pudding. His eyes closed again in ecstasy, as he dreamt of plum jam and sardines, of lobster thermidor and creme brulee. And of the phantom postal order that was always on its way to him in a plain brown envelope, but was said never actually to have arrived.

"Very well," said the Speaker in a grinding voice. "I was speaking on the subject of the Commons Committee on Standards and Privileges. Tell me what you know of Harrods and the Paris Ritz. And about garden furniture from Peter Jones?" Bunter blinked. So far as his hazy memory served him, the Speaker had been droning about standards and the spirit of the old school when he nodded off to sleep. So why was he now blethering about the Ritz? A brainwave surged through his tiny mind. "Ritz? Biscuits sir. Like Hob-Nobs. And please sir. it's time for the prorogation bell."

"If you say another word, Bunter, I shall cane you!" roared the Speaker. Bunter did not say another word. Things looked positively dangerous. "Ha, ha, ha!" shrieked the

Boys may come and boys may go, at Westminster as well as in the other nevernever land of Greyfriars. But human nature stays the same, from Bunter to Quelch. And the best joke of life is the banana-skin. The inability of the self-important to recognise their cosmic ridiculousness, in the long eye of history and literature.



The grand inquisitor

ow Prime Minister's Questions has changed! Sir Alec Douglas-Home: The Rt Hon Gentleman has discussed the question of the reunification of Germany. He will know, as we all do today, that a serious situation may possibly arise in Berlin.
Will he keep the House informed in the next day or two about that?"
Harold Wilson: "Yes, certainly."
That was 1965. And now . . .

Tony Blair: "Is it not extraordinary that the Prime Minister of our country cannot even urge his party to support his own position [on the single currency]? Weak! Weak! Weak! Weak! I tell him that his weakness and his failure of leadership are the reason his Government are the incompetent mess they are."

John Major: "... All he does is waft his arms around in hopeless gesture . . . He has followed in Grandmother's Footsteps in following policy after policy of ours. [On Europe] he dare not admit what his policy is.

PMQs (as we press gallery nerds like to call them) have become the positioning flares of current affairs, marking out the path of political debate. If a future minster's focus during any given week, those quarter-hours each Tuesday and Thursday would be the place to start. Their content recalls the political agenda: their style captures the personal styles of the era's parliamentary stars. As surely as a couple of bars from an old pop song, their tone evokes the flavour of

Since the arrival of broadcasting direct from the chamber, much of the electorate has come to believe that Question Time, particularly Prime Minister's Ouestion Time, is the most significant thing that happens in our legislature. And if people think it significant, then significant it is, for politicians will reserve for the occasion those statements and gestures they want the electorate to notice. Strange, then, that the session has attracted so little study. Only Philip Norton and Mark Franklin have published at any length on the subject, editing the revealing collection

Parliamentary Questions. Despite the Gothic convolutions by which (via an inquiry about his engagements for the day) the Prime Minister is confronted with the question of the hour, this method of holding the Government to account is little more than a couple of decades old. But ivy is a fast-growing

Tony Blair has changed the tenor of Prime Minister's Questions - and we should scrutinise his high moral tone

plant, and many now assume that, like the fake architecture of Big Ben - so much newer than it looks - Prime Min-ister's Questions is part of the ancient fabric of our government. In reality it is still growing, still changing. PMQs as an institution has seen a huge if gradual shift. During the 1960s there was far less posturing: the opportunity was often taken for genuine inquiry; questions would be transferred to a departmental minister if they were not strictly within the prime minister's remit. But Margaret Thatcher was willing to respond to any questions which (in her words) raised "issues of general substance and

Meanwhile, increasing reliance on the "open" question left MPs free to raise the days, they do little else. PMQs freeze frames the topics and personalities of the hour.

national interest".

Yesterday. Tony Blair squared up to John Major for the last time in this Parliament — perhaps the last time ever from their present positions. Reviewing the years in which Mr Blair has boxed from the Opposition corner, and comparing them with the years that went before, I find it hard to separate the impact of his own personality from the impact of the sound-bite politics that any mod-

ern Commons performer must learn. I have been re-reading the old Hansards. John Smith was gentler, as you would expect. It is more surprising to discover that Neil Kinnock, too, was often milder and less personal. Though sometimes roused to a fine and contemptuous moral fury, he was not, as Blair is,

routinely indignant. How much of this change arises from Blair's own political style, and how much from an underlying shift in the tenor of all Commons exchanges? The urgent attention that the modern media now focuses on short video clips from PMQs certainly favours homily over argument, gesture over explanation. So, (were they in his shoes today) would Alec Douglas-Home or Jim Callaghan have expressed themselves in the sort of moral bark that Blair has made his own? Would they be as personal and as insulting? Would they so insistently imply superior virtue on their own part? Do all Opposition leaders now have to

I have little doubt that Mr Blair has made his own contribution to this shift. Moralising comes naturally to him, as any scan through his chosen vocabulary will reveal. Key words such as "blame", "disgrace", "dishonour", "responsibility", "values", "rebirth" and "renew-al" leap from his text as owing

something — certainly — to the flavour of our times, but something, too, to his personal stamp. A phrase he year, describing John Major's Government as "knee-deep in dishonour", struck me not

because it so contrasted with the language we might expect, but because of the routine recourse the Labour leader has to extravagant imputations of

personal wickedness in his opponents. Along with his reflex tendency to question a rival's moral virtue goes a habit of questioning his moral fibre. The charge of weakness, cowardliness and irresolution comes quickly to Tony Blair's lios. He would retort that this is because his rival is weak, cowardly and irresolute - and certainly the charge, repeated so insistently from the Opposition dispatch box, has helped to cast John Major in that light. I suspect that with hindsight we may doubt whether the insistence with which Blair has questioned what might be called his opponent's manly qualities has been appropriate. It may have told us something about Mr Major, but I suspect it tells us more about Mr Blair.

Part of the problem for any leader of a 'new" Labour Party, of course, is that there is now so little of substance to argue about. Whatever their instincts. the stated positions of the two parties are remarkably close. Polly Toynbee speaks of the "by-election" mood in which this contest seems to be taking place, and she is right. A by-election is an opportunity to kick the government in the nuts, without changing the government. That is just what Tony Blair is inviting the electorate to do: replace the board, but leave the business intact.

To do this, it makes sense to get personal; doubly so because polls suggest that Major himself is more popular than his party, so anything Blair can do to knock him down is good tactics. But one senses more than tactics behind Blair's overt and subliminal message that he is a better man than his opponent. One senses that he really believes he does senses that he really believes he does possess superior virtue, and that this is a matter of national importance.

We have got the message, and nothing has done more than Tony Blair's use of Prime Minister's Questions to ram it home. So far, the message has assisted Blair, politically. But I have a warning for him. This is hard to frame without verging upon Jungian mumbo-jumbo. I believe that, from those who govern us, or aspire to, we hear claims to superior personal virtue on two levels. At the that its would-be governor considers his own goodness important. At the unconscious level, however, we take a little umbrage at the claim. This is because none of us is without guilt and because

- whatever they claim to believe people half-like to suppose their leaders are the same. We would somewhat prefer it if they were.

At this unconscious level, every claim to virtue is a kind of reproach. The reproach may be directed, in Blair's case, at Major, but it ricochets off - however lightly — onto all his fellow men, including those he aspires to lead; and, however lightly, we are stung. Though the voters may cheer, to every wagging finger, two are invisibly raised. Behind the bright, audible, video-recordable world in which these years of Opposition have been played out, there is a parallel, dark, silent world in the unconscious mind of Britain: a world in which doubts and resentments hover and grow, waiting to be clothed with the name of action and thought.

As Mr Blair heads towards Downing Street, I can feel, almost touch, hanging in the air around him, the gathering Schadenfreude he has attracted over al those Tuesday and Thursday after-noons. It is a dangerous way to start.

Labour won't pack the Lords

Hereditary peers should go, says

Tessa Blackstone

The Prime Minister apparently believes that our constitution is fine and should not be changed. He seems oblivious of changes to the constitution during the 20th century. For example, he needs reminding that 100 years ago, more than half the population could not even vote, mainly because women were denied the franchise. In the late 19th century more than two thirds of MPs in the Commons were peers or their sons. Their replacement by a more

sons. Their replacement by a more representative group, including boys from Brixton, is surely progress.

Labour is putting before the electorate a proposal to reform the House of Lords which will help to make further progress, as part of a programme for consitutional reform agreed with the Liberal Democrats. Since some Liberal Democrats were originally rather snaffy about Labour's two-states approach to reform Labour's two stage approach to reform of the Lords, reaching agreement on this part of the constitutional package was

particularly gratifying.

If Labour is elected, it will begin by tackling the scarcely defensible composi-tion of the House of Lords, some 700 Members of which are there merely by virtue of their birth. Lord Redesdale, best known as the father of the Minford sisters, believed that the attacks on the hereditary peerage were akin to attacks on Christianity. "I inherited my father just as Christ inherited His from God," he proclaimed. Such views are a little out of fashion these days. Nobody would argue that some one should be given a place in a football team just because his father was in it. Nevertheless, some pretty silly claims are still being made by Conservative hereditary peers. Even the intelligent and urbane Viscount Cranborne, the current Leader of the Lords, was uncharacteristically crass when he claimed, in a speech defending the present system, that hereditary peers represent the common man.

Not for much longer, perhaps. A Labour government would introduce a short Bill to prevent them from sitting and voring. Some sceptics say it is not worth doing because it will take up too much parliamentary time, since Tory heredi-tary peers, supported by their front beach, will vote for wrecking amend-ments, and resist their reversal in the Commons, by voting for similar amend-ments on the Bill's return to the Lords. They believe that were this to happen a Labour government would have to invoke the Pacliament Act. They are wrong. Lord Cranborne has already said that the Salisbury-Addison doctrine, first enunciated by his grandfather, will apply. This establishes the convention that proposals in the Queen's Speech which were also in the new government's election manifesto has a mandate should not be rejected by the unelected House.

any hereditary peers don't bother to turn up. Of those who do, well over 300 take the Conservative whip, compared with fewer than 20 who take the Labour whip. This imbalance is unhealthy and stops the House from working properly as a revising chamber. It means that those who have won the argument often lose the vote because the Tory aristocracy can be summoned to Westminster by their whips to vote for the Conservative line, as happened in the poll tax debate. Use of backwoodsmen in this way brings the Lords into disrepute and prevents it from fulfilling its proper function as a check on the government.

There are wild stories around that Labour intends to pack the House of Lords with hundreds of new life peers brought in on a party list. This is not true, even though the removal of the hereditary peers still leaves an imbalance in party representation in the Lords, partly because Margaret Thatcher always insisted that more life peerages be created for Tories than for the other side. Labour and the Liberal Democrats have agreed instead that gradually, over the course of the next Parliament, we should move towards a position "where those peers who take a party whip more accurately reflect the proportion of votes received by each party in the general election".

Some commentators have been worried about the future of the crossbench peers, who do not take any party whip. Their independence, particularly when it is combined with wide experience, knowledge and expertise, is rightly valued. The agreement between Labour and the Liberal Democrats acknowledges this and proposes that when the hereditary peers have gone, crossbenchers should remain at the present proportion of about a fifth, and that they should be consulted about ways of replenishing their numbers. There has also been concern about the fate of those hereditary peers who currently make an important contribution to the Lords, and some of whom are ministers. Labour intends to make it possible for them to become life peers.

Once the first stage of reform is in place, there will not be a long delay in moving to the second stage. Labour plans to set up a committee of both Houses during the next Parliament. It will be asked to come up with recommendations for a more democratic and representative Upper House Labour's determination to establish a democratic and efficient second chamber is central. to its programme to modernise our constitution. The Conservatives' decision to defend the hereditary perrage's automatic right to sit in the Upper House is both foolish and reactionary. Baroness Blackstone is a Labour spokesman in the Lords.

No help here

a wheelchair-bound and sheepishlooking President Clinton had to be lowered from his plane to the Tarmac in a catering van, sympathy has moved on to another member of his party: Madeleine Albright, his new and formidable Secretary of State.

Her former husband, Joe Albright, who abandoned her for a younger woman 15 years ago, is also in Helsinki. That woman is now his wife, and she has accompanied him on the trip to Finland. Madeleine Albright has never



Albright abandoned

1982 when he announced to her that he was in love with another woman. She had suspected nothing. "It was a shock," she said later. "Most of Washington knows that Joe left. I was very upset. I had been married for 23 years and I did not want a divorce."

Joe walked out on her saying that the marriage was dead, and left her in tatters. The scion of a newspaper dynasty, he now works for a newspaper company in Moscow, and has been dispatched to cover the meeting between Boris Yeltsin and his former wife and the President.

"She still bears a real grudge for the manner in which he dumped her so unceremoniously," says one political observer. "She won't be going out of her way to help him with his story."

Lions' share

EVEN after death, the curiously attired Marquess of Bath plans to have little truck with the stuffier members of his family.

He has decided he will not be buried, as is the custom, in



church of Longbridge Deverill near Longleat, his estate.

Describing the vault in next month's Field magazine he says it is "gloomy and claustrophobic". He explains: "I might not relish the company in which I found myself," adding that "corpses get disinterred and put on public display as an item from the political regime which nurtured them. I feel sure I wouldn't be looking my best." Instead, he plans a cremation, with some of his ashes to be scattered among the lions of Longleat and the rest kept in an urn for his family to share.

 An ambulance crew was stymied yesterday when it turned out to rescue a 22-stone man who had fallen out of a tree in Worksop, Nottinghamshire, and sprained his ankle, Unable to hoist him up, they summoned the fire brigade the family vault at the Wiltshire with their special lifting equip-

ment, but they couldn't help either. Eventually a helicopter hauled him off to safety.

Brush up

AS Sir Gordon Downey's report on government sleaze dribbles out, at least one man in Westminster has shown himself beyond financial reproach: Douglas Hogg, the Minister of Agriculture.

After writing a light-hearted piece for a tabloid newspaper the other day about his love of hats and foxhunting, Hogg received a cheque for £300. Unable to accept. he duly returned it to the paper with a note attached. "If you would



cause," he wrote, "might I suggest the British Field Sports Society?

Pole position

like to donate this money to a good

WHEN Margaret Thatcher's papers are properly installed in the archives centre of Churchill College, Cambridge, they will have as their handsome backdrop a group of flags returned from the Falklands conflict

Nick Baker, who commanded HMS Endurance during the operation in 1982, and who was a defence fellow at Churchill, gave the college the Argentine flag which his men captured from the island of South Georgia, the Union Jack they put up in its place, and the white battle ensign from their

ship.
The library has recently been redecorated, and the flags are now hanging prominently in the main reading room. Piers Brandon, keeper of the college archives centre, says: "The flags make a very handsome and appropriate hackdrop when needed. We had them well before the Thatcher papers, but it is a very happy

• Creative talent is working overtime in Bognor Regis, where the town's Watershed Theatre has embarked on a new project, Max Clifford: The Musical. The show documents the public relations man's career and the sensational headlines that he has brought us.

Catatonic

THE Defence Secretary, Michael Portillo, risks being mauled by animal campaigners after unwittingly walking about with a dead cat

on his head. While on a recent visit to Ukraine, Portillo - who is more fond of animals than many of his Cabinet colleagues - decided to buy a fur hat to stave off frostbite in the 15-below-zero climate. One of his officials bought an identical hat, and both of them were snug as they were them towards the end of their visit.

When the civil servant returned home, however, his wife took one look at the hat and said: "Why are you wearing a dead cat on your head?" At first the chap thought it was a joke. But not so. His wife, a cat-lover, recognised the hat as cat fur. A veterinary friend confirmed his worst fear.

Michael Portillo was told the news and, as a result, has quickly acquired a new fur hat. He has been assured the replacement is not of feline origin.

lts

fter

Film censor's duty

'to uphold values'

Sir, I was dismayed to see that the

British Board of Film Classification

has approved the showing of the film

Crash (report, March 19).
You report that in coming to its deci-

sion the board obtained the profes-

sional opinions of a QC who special-

ises in obscenity cases and a forensic

psychiatrist. But such "expert" advice

should not, in my view, be put for-ward as justification for the board's

The public expects its film censors

to protect the mores and values of British society by the application to

questions of decency of simple com-

Film makers expect the censors' pol-

icies to be clear and consistent. Time

perhaps for the censors to be cen-

Palm Beach, 21 Orchard Hill,

From Councillor Robert Moreland

Sir. You report the legal adviser to the

British Board of Film Classification as

stating that the "average viewer"

would reject the values of the film

The real concern is not the "average

viewer", or indeed the majority of

viewers, who no doubt will reject the

values of the film and, hopefully, will

find it repulsive. The concern of those

of us who viewed the film for West-

minster Council is the effect on those

influenced by the values of the film. If

one person takes seriously the mes-

sage expressed by one character, that

road crashes "stimulate", then there

I see no public benefit - or enjoy-

ment - in showing the film, at least

without the cuts suggested by West-

should be public concern.

minster City Council.

ROBERT MORELAND

Victoria Street, ŠWI.

From Mr J. S. Roche

tion it provided, deadly.

Westminster City Council,

(Councillor for Knightsbridge),

Voices in the House

Sir, It is always unwelcome to dis-

agree with Betty Boothroyd, but there

are strong constitutional arguments against her ruling on pagers in the

Commons (report, March 13). The

issue is a much wider one than just the

noise of an interruption, as clearly a

pager could be silent and the informa-

The real question is the unrealism

of the assumption that - unlike

traders, bankers, doctors, civil ser-

vants or most other professionals -

MPs should be expected to be expertly

briefed beforehand on all matters that

could conceivably arise in the cham-

ber, or in committee, Clearly they

is it right to deny MPs the opportu-

nity to make better, more informed

contributions to debate as a result of

Yours faithfully.

March 19.

cannot.

- no doubt a minority - who could be

mon sense.

Yours faithfully.

Crash.

PETER NOONAN,

Rudgwick, West Sussex.

From Mr Peter M. Noonan

Yours faithfully, J. S. ROCHE. 19 Cabot Drive, Dibden. Southampton, Hampshire.

Architectural merit

From Professor Paul Kline

Sir, The strange thing is not that Tadao Ando cannot call himself an architect (report, March 20) but that those who have passed architectural

exams can. Yours sincerely. PAUL KLINE University of Exeter. Department of Psychology.

Yes, we have none

Yours, etc. JOHN EDEN, 12 Eastern Road. March 19.

Too close for comfort

From Mr Robin Findley

Sir. I suggest that Sir George Cooper (letter, March 17) need not worry unduly about the letter he received signed by a lady calling herself the Head of Fulfilment ... at least, not

Yours faithfully. ROBIN FINDLAY, 10 Glebe Road, Cheam, Surrey.



RIGHT TO KNOW

Parliament has been denied the chance to put its house in order

The House of Commons rises today with its reputation dangerously low. The final Prime Ministerial Question Time of this Parliament was a juvenile exercise - the politics of the sandpit. The cause was a serious matter, the failure of this Parliament to put tiself in order before it presents itself to the people. The manner of the party leaders' disagreement did not match the importance of the matter at dispute. The current argument over "sleaze" may be presented by the Prime Minister as an opportunistic assault on the Tories, but popular concern with standards in public life is not defined by party boundaries.

Yesterday the body charged with regulating the Commons, the Standards and Privileges Committee, responded to the pressure for a proper treatment of "sleaze" allegations with a report which provoked more questions than it answered. Fifteen MPs were exonerated but the serious doubts hanging over Neil Hamilton and Tim Smith remain. Moreover, other MPs hitherto neglected may now be presumed guilty of misconduct in the absence of unambiguous assurance of their innocence. Far from lancing the boil, the infection has spread. It is in the interest of the accused MPs and the () voters that the facts are known. The case for publication of Sir Gordon Downey's report

is stronger than ever. Caveats have been entered. The Privileges Committee yesterday reminded the Commons that publication of Sir Gordon's report would not end matters. Those members found to be at fault would have the right to make further representations before a final conclusion was reached. Such a process, they laconically conclude, "could take a considerable time". Apologists for the Govemment argue that even if the prorogation of Parliament were delayed to allow the committee to receive Sir Gordon's report it would not then have that "considerable time" to consider the report.

Dolly, the cloned sheep which is now almost

as famous as her namesake Dolly Parton,

burst upon a world whose psyche had been

thoroughly prepared by the powerful im-

ages of science fiction. Ever since Mary

Shelley whiled away a wet summer writing

Frankenstein, the vision of the crazed

staple of the genre. The fevered public

reaction to Dolly cloned is thus both

understandable, and a tribute to the power

of literature to shape the mind.

It is true that the most appropriate treatment of these matters would see such a lengthy inquiry take place, but the best should not become the enemy of the good. Rather than suppressing the report and allowing rumour, leak and the wild allegations of reckless campaigners to define debate thoroughout the election campaign, it would be infinitely better to publish. The committee's amour propre is not as important as the public's right to know.

There is nothing recklessly novel in calling for Sir Gordon's report to be published upon completion. The report of Lord Nolan's Commission into Standards in Public Life recommended that Sir Gordon have the power to "make findings and conclusions public" in the same way as the Comptroller and Auditor General and the Parliamentary Commissioner for Administration.

The Prime Minister stopped his ears yesterday to arguments for openness and chose instead to see current anger over the suppression of the Downey report as a creation of the Labour Party, manufactured to divert attention from falling unemployment. It is certainly the case that Tony Blair scents blood, but that is because the Prime Minister shot himself in the foot.

John Major treated the genuine concern of the Liberal Democrat MP Simon Hughes as a matter for levity. Mr Hughes queried the suppression of Sir Gordon's report in the Commons, and The Times called for publication in this column, before the announcement of any unemployment figures. It is Parliament's name, not the advantage of any party, that matters. If the Prime Minister had delayed Parliament's rising in order to facilitate publication of Sir Gordon's report, then he might have gone some way to restoring faith in the ability of the Commons to regulate itself. In treating concern so cavalierly, however, the Prime Minister has done both his party and Parliament a disservice.

of the last Labour Government.

Yours faithfully, PHILLIP OPPENHEIM, House of Commons.

Nato enlargement

Sir, Western reaction to Russia's hos-

tilities towards an extended Nato

(leading article, March 20) reminds

me uncomfortably of the Versailles

Treaty's attitude towards Germany

I believe it would be a grave mistake

to consider Russia to have been defeat-

ed in the Cold War. Rather it has

emerged from an experiment with a

philosophy which has proved to be

flawed, but the experience of which

has nevertheless something to teach

humiliating a nation and riding rough-shod over legitimate concerns

which can only store up trouble for

Sir, Last Friday you published letters

from Professor Sir Michael Howard.

our foremost historian, and Sir Frank

Cooper, a most distinguished former Permanent Under-Secretary of State

at the Ministry of Defence (March 14),

each warning that the Government's

unexplained drive for Nato expansion

On the same day I raised a mini-de-

bate on Nato enlargement in the

House of Lords. It lasted 90 minutes. I

had ten minutes to speak, Lord

Chesham, the non-specialist whip

who was answering instead of any

minister, had 15. He ended: "I have

considerably more to say, but . . . time has caught up with me." The 12 other

speakers had five minutes each. It had

has higher priority in Britain's foreign

policy." He spoke of democracy and

transparency and, answering none of

the questions raised, limited himself,

undiscussed in either House of Parlia-

ment except for a 40-minute airing in

the Commons three weeks ago and

this one Lords' debate, both on the ini-

tiative of backbenchers? The Foreign

Office does not even know if the mat-

ter has been examined in other parlia-

What was Nato supposed to de-

fend? Was it democracy?

Yours etc.

KENNET.

March lu.

House of Lords.

Why has Nato's future remained

in Sir Frank's word, to "assertions".

Lord Chesham also said: "No issue

is pointless and dangerous.

heen a fight to get that.

future generations.

From Lord Kennet

12a Norham Road, Oxford.

Yours sincerely. P. J. RIDDELL.

March 20.

in any case, we should beware of

From Mr P. J. Riddell

after the First World War.

Aid for Albania From Dr Raymond Hutchings

Sir. You are quite right (leading article today) that it was "shameful" that Europe could not deal with violence and atrocities in former Yugoslavia. But as regards Albania, you conclude that "very considerable humanitarian aid in the very short term" may well be needed.

One cannot deny the need, but how can aid get in unless at least one port and airport are secured?

In Apeldoorn, Malcolm Rifkind opposed the French and Italian proposal to deploy up to 3,000 men to make secure Tirana airport, and in the light of your recommendation, it seems illogical that you too do not favour that proposal.

Yours faithfully, R. HUTCHINGS

Historical Dictionary of Albania. Scarectow Press, 1996) 168 Turnpike Link. Croydon, Surrey. March 17.

Tunnels questioned

From Dr Martin R. Cragg

All the political parties are supportive of a sustainable transport policy. We should seek to contain or even reduce private vehicular movement, not to foster it, and to encourage more environmentally friendly modes of transport, namely (light) rail, bus.

Travel into central London is ideally suited to public transport as the routes are radial. The difficulty is in coping with orbital movements, especially in outer London, which cannot easily be provided by public transport and for which tunnelling is unlikely to help. In any event, by comparison with other major European cities, Lon-

As Mr Green suggests, tolling could Sport letters, page 43 earmarked for the long overdue im-

I Pennington Street, London El 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

this is not a sign of things to come over the next six weeks of election erring.

As a working woman with a consid-

erable income Mrs Blair's expendi-

ture on clothes is probably not dissi-

milar proportionately to that of many

Here is a successful woman who,

like many of us, earns and spends her

Sir, I would like to suggest to Mr Nicholas Budgen (article, "We ignore immigration at our peril", March 18)

that an influx of any 400 families

would cause considerable social ten-

sion in his village. His emphasis on

Asian families is not only misplaced

472 High Road, Wembley, Middlesex.

Sir, Your cartoon summary today of

Major's reign is ironic, especially the

cartoon depicting electricity privatisa-

tion, captioned "Privatisation gave

At the moment, shareholders in

London Electricity who do not wish to

sell their shares to the American com-

pany Entergy are having them com-

pulsorily purchased under provisions

of the Company's Act 1985. So much

Eurosceptics claim, between power re-

maining in Westminster or going to

Brussels, but between it remaining

The choice, it seems, is not, as the

for a shareholders' democracy.

here or going to Wall Street.

From Mr Maurice Taylor

about the same time.

4 Hillgate Place, Kensington, W&.

Sir, Not dissimilar in content and

style to the general election, an equally

enriching event will be taking place at

As anyone who follows the Euro-

vision Song Contest will know, the re-

sulting scores are infinitely more en-

thralling than the songs that have

Yours sincerely,

March 18.

been sung.

Yours sincerely.

G. P. BOWKER,

working women.

own money.

March 18.

Yours sincerely.

12 Middle Road.

NAOMI HOLLOWAY,

From Mr B. M. Suchak

but also dangerous.

Suchak & Co (solicitors).

From Dr G. P. Bowker

power to the people".

Yours faithfully,

B. M. SUCHAK,

East Barnet, Hertfordshire.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Election brickbats and boasts, propaganda and pledges cost of Cherie Rooth's clothes. I hope

From the Exchequer Secretary to the Treasury

Sir. It is Labour's Alistair Darling (letter, March 19) who deceives himself over the economic performance of the last 18 years. His claim that the Gov-ernment has centralised power on an unparalleled level" ignores the devolution of power from often highly politicised local authorities to schools and from the incompetent central government economic planners of the 1970s

to industry and consumers. Achievements on spending as a per centage of national income have to be seen in the context of massive increases in other industrialised countries and the shift of spending away from loss-making nationalised industries in the 1970s to spending on core services such as health and law and

In 1979 the nationalised industries were losing £50 million every week; privatised industries now contribute E60 million to the Exchequer in cor-

noration tax. His claim that the UK growth rate since 1979 is less than that achieved under Labour conveniently evades the fact that the 1970s were a higher growth, but also a much higher inflation era. Our growth is now much closer to the EU average. Just as important, we have moved from the bottom of the league of G7 countries for manufacturing-productivity growth in the 1960s and 1970s to the top since 1980. That was why the independent National Institute for Economic and Social Research recently proclaimed that we had closed four fifths of the

competitiveness gap with Germany. Most ludicrous is Mr Darling's claim on debt. The national debt has been lower every single year under this Government than in any year under Labour and is the lowest of all major EU countries. We have also borrowed at, on average, half the level

No one would claim that governments do not make mistakes, but the fact is that Britain's very long-term decline has been halted in the past 18 years - which might explain why Mr Darling's party has so hurriedly had to abandon most of its central economic policies and adopt the Government's own tax and spending plans.

From Mr David Gale

Sir, Your leading article today states that "Mr Major's desire to maintain the highest standards in public life is conspicuous". Yet he has presided over the most conspicuously disreputable Government of my (62 years")

lifetime. Westminster is littered with the half-buried remains of sleaze, mendacity and questionable conduct of government, ministers and MPs over the last five years.

If the buck does actually arrive and stop in Downing Street, how is it that Mr Major manages to hang on to his honourable reputation?

Yours sincerely, DAVID GALE, 37 Harlech Road, N7. March 20.

From Mrs Linda Moule

Sir, Over the next six weeks every elderly Conservative should remind first-time voters of the reality of life under a Labour government.

Yours faithfully, L MOULE, White Coppice Farm,

High Hurstwood, East Sussex.

From Mr Martin Ornstein Sir. The newsworthiness of a 41-day "longest election fight in memory" (report, March 17) can only bring a smile and a sigh of envy from an American reader. In order to elect a president we are forced to endure well over a year of adverts, debates, interviews, rallies, promises, enthusiastic announcements, tearful withdrawals, the hype and spectacle of the conventions, unrelenting attacks, accusations and

sound bites". A world where all this is condensed down to 44 days is Utopia indeed.

Yours sincerely, MARTIN H. ORNSTEIN, 26-18 Quail Ridge Drive. Plainsboro, New Jersey.

From Mr A. R. Reynolds

Sir, The tendency towards televised debates for "prime ministerial" candidates must be considered unwelcome, at least from one point of view. This, together with the ever-increasing emphasis given to the party above the person standing for election in a constituency, detracts from the main pur-

pose of a general election. Each elector is voting for a candidate to represent him or her at the Palace of Westminster. We are not voting for a prime minister. Even the residents of Huntingdon and Sedgefield should not be under this misapprehension.

Yours sincerely A. REYNOLDS. Whitwell, 41 Chesterton Avenue, Harpenden, Hertfordshire.

March 17.

Sir, I was dismayed to see in your reports today one that referred to the

From Ms Naomi Holloway

MAURICE TAYLOR. 22 Claremont Hill. Shrewsbury, Shropshire. March 16.

U-boat secrets From Dr P. J. Horsey

Sir, The retrieval of U559's codebooks in November 1942 (Ralph Erskine's letter, March 18) involved all three members of HMS Petard's crew stripping naked and diving into the rough sea in darkness to reach the submarine. Tommy Brown was a boy assistant to the Naafi canteen manager and therefore a civilian. It was he who handed the codebooks to the seaboat's crew. The submarine sank suddenly when he was at the top of the ladder leading to the control room and he

was the only one to be picked up. When his age (16) became known he was sent home and lost his life two years later while attempting to save his infant sister from a fire which engulfed his South Shields home. His George Medal was well deserved and it would be interesting to know what became of it.

Yours faithfully PETER HORSEY. The Old Manor. Ashley, Stockbridge, Hampshire.

Sir, The proposal from David Green, President of the Institution of Civil Engineers (letter, March II), that London's traffic problems can be solved by an underground network of tunnels is certainly innovative but I would suggest impracticable.

Tunnelling unfortunately is a very expensive solution and in London prohibitively so, given the enormous related cost of diverting services, including the Underground network. The associated works would also be extremely disruptive to traffic over the many years of construction.

cycling and walking.

don's traffic moves relatively freely.

be an important source of funds. But any money available for improving transport in London should be largely

provements in public (sustainable) transport and traffic management

Yours truly, MARTIN CRAGG (Chief Executive and Secretary). The Institution of Highways and Transportation, 6 Endsleigh Street, WC1.

From Lord Berkeley

Sir. As a member of his institution, I applaud David Green's efforts to secure work for his members, but is his idea really a transport priority? A tunnel to carry 5,000 passengers

per hour in their cars would probably cost five to ten times the cost of one to carry the same number in trains under ground, and cause much greater environmental damage.

I suggest that his institution should direct its energies to promoting projects which have some chance of being realised, such as Thameslink 2000, Crossrail or the East London Line extension, along with a comprehensive network of bus lanes and transport interchanges. These will do much more to improve the quality of life in London, and at a much lower cost, than a rabbit warren of road tunnels.

BERKELEY (Chairman, Railfreight Group). House of Lords. March 12.

More sober reflections have come from the Committee on Science and Technology of the House of Commons, which has shown uncommon dispatch in producing a report on the Dolly breakthrough. The report contains much good sense, in urging that the instinctive reaction of horror at the prospect of human cloning should not be allowed to cloud the real prospects of benefit that come from cloning animals. These include producing medicinal proteins from the milk of genetically engineered animals, a better a understanding of human development and disease, improving the productivity of animals in agriculture and, more speculatively, the possibility of cloning not human beings, but human organs.

The committee - save Sir Trevor Skeet, who provides a minority report of his own is agreed that the regulatory regime in Britain is well-fitted to cope with the challenges of cloning. Unlike the United States, where the subject appears to have been given little thought, Britain already has a framework of law, and institutions in the form of the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority and the new Human Genetics Advisory Commission, which itself owes its existence to the persistence of the

The committee says that human cloning using the Roslin technique should be illegal, if it is not so already. Doubts arise over the legal interpretation of the word embryo. The Human Fertilisation and Embryology Act bans human cloning using embryos, but the Roslin method uses adult material, combined with an enucleated egg. Is this an embryo? Legal opinion is being sought, but this is not enough for the committee, which wants Parliament to amend the law to remove loopholes. The problem, of course, is that science may discover yet more cloning methods, which would necessitate yet further changes. Tweaking of the law may be needed, but Parliament should also heed the advice of Ruth Deech, chairman of the HFEA, who warned the committee that the law should be kept flexible to accommodate

Commons committee in advocating it.

Between these two, this country should not

fail for the lack of well-considered advice.

future scientific developments. The committee has some sharp words for the embattled Ministry of Agriculture. which celebrated the cloning of Dolly by cutting its funding to the Roslin Institute. Cavalier and blinkered are the words the committee uses to describe this action, and they cannot be improved upon. Given its record over BSE - where far too little was spent on research - and E. coli, where good scientific advice was ignored, it is plain that research management is not the ministry's strong point. Its reluctance to share data with outside researchers is another blot on its record. The committee is right to call for a full-scale investigation during the next Parliament of the ways in which the ministry commissions and uses research

OUR MAN IN OUR VOLVO

and scientific advice.

HELLO, HELLO, DOLLY, DOLLY

Here is a Commons committee working as committees should

When a correspondent goes beyond the call of duty

Journalists are supposed to stay apart from the events that they describe. But sometimes, like our man in Albania yesterday, they cannot. Anthony Loyd tells his own story on page 16 of how he was co-opted by special forces for a desperate evacuation of an orphanage at Elbasan. This was a feral operation in a perilous place. It was carried out darkly at dead of night, in body armour and with the Times Volvo driving shotgun. It was the sort of story-book experience that happens to journalists' subjects, not normally to journalists themselves. And unlike so many newspaper stories it has a happy

ending. All the orphans were safely rescued. Journalists come in all shapes. Our man in our Volvo is characteristic of a line of foreign correspondents stretching back intermittently over two centuries. Since, unlike his TV colleagues, he is not a familiar face we should say that he is a pony-tailed former Greenjacket and bushwhacker aged 30, that he fought in the Gulf War and that his great-grandfather won a Victoria Cross at the Somme. Like the most famous of all our war reporters, William Howard Russell, his job includes taking calculated risks on the dangerous edge of things.

Russell of the Crimea is known by name.

Because of archaic convention and for

reasons of security, the names of the other

war correspondents were unknown to the

newspaper's readers safely away from the

drums and the guns. Theirs was the famous

But sometimes they were not only "our" and more than just a correspondent. Ferdinand Eber arrived in Sicily as Garibaldi began his long march on Rome, and was appointed a general of the insurgents. Although the writers of this column disapproved, they needed his stirring copy and kept him on. In the Balkans J. D. Bourchier was depicted on a stamp in Bulgarian national costume and holding a gun. Crabb Morrison at Corunna, China Morrison in Peking and many other Times correspondents helped to make history as well as the edition.

byline "From Our Own Correspondent".

Some, tragically, died in the danger. Frank Power had his throat cut at Khartourn. Walter Harris, Our Special Correspondent in Morocco, was thrown into a cell full of decapitated bodies, and only escaped decapitation himself by a hair. Frank Riley was murdered in 1927 covering the civil war

War correspondents tend to be bad risks for life, motor or any other insurance. But being a good risk is not the accolade they seek. "I wonder what would have come of it all had I followed the quiet path instead of noisy drums and trumpets", wrote Russell in his later years. He did not care too much what the answer might have been. Nor do we. Our own correspondents still sometimes march towards the sound of the gunfire, find the news and file the copy. And we who read it should occasionally salute them.

Many parties of 17.29 Decision read for high family the lands the first hands the land of the topic family the lands the land of the topic family the lands the lands

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Exeter, Devon. March 20.

From Mr John Eden

Sir, We shouldn't be surprised that bananas have supplanted apples in the public affection (report, March 19). given that bananas still taste like ba-nanas, whereas apples taste of nothing in particular.

Sutton Coldfield, West Midlands.

until he opens one — as I did this morning — from a lady describing herself as Operational Quality.

March 17.



Little Ministry Company





COURT CIRCULAR

BUCKINGHAM PALACE March 20: Air Chief Marshal Sir Michael Graydon was received by The Queen upon relinquishing his appointment as Chief of the Air Staff. appointment as chief of the All Sharp Major General Raymond Sharp was received by Her Majesty upon relinquishing his appointment as Regimental Colonel, Royal New South Wales Regiment. Mrs Sharp was also received by

The Oueen. The Queen.

His Excellency Mr Anatoly
Adamishin and Mrs Adamishina
were received in farewell audience by
Her Majesty and took leave upon His Excellency relinquishing his appointment as Ambassador from the Russian Federation to the Court of St

The Queen, Patron, this afternoon attended a Concert at the Royal College of Music, Prince Consort Road, London SW7, was received by the Chairman (Mr Leopold de Roth-schild) and afterwards toured the

College.
The Duke of Edinburgh, President Emeritus, World Wide Fund for Nature - WWF International, this morning left Calgary and flew to

Nova Scotia.

His Royal Highness this afternoon arrived in Halifax.

The Duke of Edinburgh this evening attended a Dinner for World Wide Fund for Nature at the Prince

George Hotel.
The Queen was represented by the Baroness Miller of Hendon (Baroness in Waiting) at the Funeral of State Cores in Waiting) at the Funeral of State Cores of S John Stow (formerly Governor-Gen-eral of Barbados) which was held at Putney Vale Crematorium, London SWI5, this morning.

March 20: The Prince Edward, Trustee, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Founda and Chairman, international Coun-cil, The Duke of Edinburgh's Award International Association, this moreing left Heathrow Airport, London, for New Delhi, India.

His Royal Highness was received in New Delhi by the British High Commissioner (His Excellency the Hon Sir David Gore-Booth). Licutenant Colonel Sean O'Dwyer is in attendance.

March 20: The Princess Royal, Colonel-in-Chief, Royal Logistic Corps, this afternoon received Major Gen-eral Colin Carrington upon relinquishing his appointment as Colonel Commandant and Major General David Botting upon assum-

ing the appointment.

Her Royal Highness later attended the Spring Meeting and delivered the Lecture to mark the Twenty Fifth. Anniversary of the Faculty of Public Health Medicine at the Royal College of Physicians, St Andrews Place. London NWI.

ST JAMES'S PALACE March 20: The Prince of Wales this morning visited the Wolverhampton

reception and luncheon at Notting-ham Council House at 11.50; will visit

Nottingham Courthouse at 1.5%, Late:

she will open the new headquarters for Boots at 2.25; will visit Boots

Contract Manufacturing Develop-ment Laboratories at 2.40; and will

The Prince of Wales, on behalf of the Queen, will hold an Investiture at

Suckingham Palace, at 11.00. As President, The Prince's Trust, will

attend the British Telecom Swimathon at the Queen Mother Sports Centre, 223 Vauxhall Bridge

The Duke of York will visit the Defence Technology stand at the Year

of Engineering Success exhibition at the National Exhibition Centre.

National Sporting Club Mr François Pienaar was the guest of

on it ample repeat was the goest of the National Sporting Club held yesterday at the Café Royal. Mr Bob Willis. chairman, presided.

Birmineham, at 1.10.

Luncheon

Express and Star, was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of West Midlands (Mr Robert Toylor)

and viewed the news gathering and printing facilities and thet staff. His Royal Highness, President, this afternoon attended a presentation to local business leaders on the work of The Prince's Trust and Business in the Community, ar Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Ground.

The Prince of Wales, President, Business in the Community, later attended "Tomorrows World Live at the NEC", Birmingham, and presented the 1997 Prince of Wales Awards for Innovation.

Awards for Innovation.

His Royal Highness, President, this evening attended the Royal Charity Premiere of "Star Wars" at the Odeon Cinema, Leicester Square, London WCZ, in aid of The Prince's

KENSINGTON PALACE March 20: The Princess Margaret, Countess of Snowdon was present this evening at the Imperial War Museum, London SEI, to attend a Museum, London SEI, to attend a Reception to celebrate the eightieth birthday of Dame Vera Lynn, and to view the "Forties Fashion and the New Look" Exhibition.

Her Royal Highness was received by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Greater London (Field Marshall The Lord Record) 15 CC1

Lord Bramall, KG).

March 20: The Duke of Gloucester, Deputy Colonel-in-Chief. The Royal Logistic Corps today received Major General Colin Carrington on relinquishing his appointment as Representative Colonel Commandant and Major General David Botting on assuming the appointment. The Duke of Gloucester, President. Botting on assuming the appointment. The Duke of Gloucester, President. British Consultants Bureau, this evening attended a Dinner at the Royal Thames Yacht Club. Knightsbridge, London SW1.

YORK HOUSE March 20: The Duke of Kent, Vice-Chairman, the British Overseas Trade Board, this morning visited United Kingdom Glass Eels Limited. Hampstead Lane, Gloucester, and was met on arrival by Her Majesty's Lord-Lieutenant of Gloucestershire

Lord-Lieuteriant of Gloucestershire (Mr Henry Elwes).
His Royal Highness this afternoon opened new student facilities at the Chettenham and Gloucester College of Higher Education, Pitrville Campus, Cheltenham, Gloucestershire.
The Duchess of Kent, President, this exercises attended a performance this evening attended a performance of Werther, at the Royal Northern College of Music, Oxford Road, Manchester, Greater Manchester. THATCHED HOUSE LODGE. March 20: Princess Alexandra, Vice-President of the British Red Cross,

rresident of the british Red Cross, accompanied by the Rt Hon Sir Angus Ogilvy, this morning opened the new headquarters of the Bermuda Red Cross, 9 Berry Hill Road, Paget.

Royal engagements | Lord Chelmer The Queen will visit Queen Elizabeth Endowed School, Mansfield, Not-tinghamshire, at 10.15; will attend a

memorial service for Lord Chelmer will be held in Chelmsford Cathedral on Wednesday, April 23, 1997, at 3.00pm.

Margery Clay

A celebration for the life of Margery Clay, teacher of English 1942 to 1972, North London Collegiate School, will be held on Sunday. April 20, at 3.00pm in the Music School at Canons. For an invitation please telephone 0181 952 0912.

Nene College. Northampton

of Northamptonshire, will take the chair at the Annual Meeting of the Nene College Court held today in Northampton. The Chairman of Governors, Air Marshal Sir John Sutton, will present the Annual Accounts and Dr S. Martin Gas-kell, Director, will present the Academic Report.

Sir John Lowther, Lord-Lieutenant

Birthdays today

Lord Boston of Faversham, QC: 67; Mr Peter Brook, theatrical producer, 72: Dr C.L. Brundin, former President, Templeton College, Oxford, 66; Mr Brian Clough, former football manager, 61; Miss Ann Clwyd, MR, 60; Mr Timothy Dalton, actor, SI: Mr Ieuan Evans, rugby player, 33; Mr Michael Foreman, writer and illustrator, 59: Mrs Llin Golding, MP, 64; Sir John Hall, former chairman, Cameron Hall Developments, 64: Mr Roger Hammond, actor, 61: Mr David Heathcoat-Amory, MP, 48; Mr Michael Heseltine, Deputy Prime Minister, 64; Mr Antony Hopkins, composer and conductor, 76: Mr Frederic Horne, former Chief Taxing Master, Supreme Court, 80; Miss Ann Mackay. soprano, 41; Sir Peter Main, former chairman, The Boots Com-pany, 72; the Earl of Munster, 71; Baroness Nicol, 74; Lord Oaksey, 62; Sir John Palmer, Jormer President, Law Society, 77; Professor J.D. Pickard, consultant neuro-surgeon, 51; Vice-Admiral Malcolm G. Rutherford, 56; Sir Brian Shaw, chairman, Port of London Authority, 64; Viscount Soulbury, 82: the Earl of Swinton, 60; Mr Stuart Westley, Master, Hailey-bury College, 50; Lord Wilson of Langside, QC, 81.

School news

Queen Arme's School, Caversham Queen Anne's School, Caversham have awarded the scholarships to the following girls (effective September 1997).

September 1997).

Arademic Scholarships: Joanna Cleep, Doiphin School, Hurst: Any Fuwier, Rupert House School, Henley on Thames; Sarah-Jane Golding, Queen Anne's School; Jennifer Hudson, Godstowe School, High Wycombe: Sara Kingon. Godstowe School, High Wycombe: Helen Jeffery, Queen Anne's School; Frances McCliure, Ouern Anne School; Frances McCliure, Ouern Anne School; Frances McCliure, Ouern Anne School; Leion Jeffery, Queen Anne's School; Frances McClure, Queen Anne's School; School; Gabriella Smee, Rupert House School, Henley on Thames Iodia Tatham-Banks, Dolphin School, Hurst.

Major Music Scholarships: Janet Weston, Queen Anne's School. Music Exhibitions: Karen Ng. Queen Anne's School; Jennifer Walson, Queen Anne's School

University news Oxford

The Weldon Memorial Prize 1996 Dr Martin A. Nowak, Wellcome Senior Research Fellow, Head of the Mathematical Biology Group in the Department of Zoology, Oxford University and Fellow of Keble College, has been awarded the Weldon Memorial Prize 1996. **All Souls College**

Senior Research Fellowships

James Noel Adams, (Professor of Latin, Reading University), and Jeremy Nicholas Butterfield, (Lecturer in Philosophy, Cambridge University) have been elected to Senior Research Fellowship from January 1, 1998.

Cambridge Darwin College

Anne Carla Ferguson-Smith, has been elected into Official Fellow-

Appointments

Mr David Wright to be Ambassador to Qatar from the end of May, in succession to Mr Patrick Wogan who is retiring from the Diplomatic Service. Dr John Freeman to be United

Kingdom Permanent Representative to the International Atomic Energy Agency, to the United Nations Industrial Development Organisation and to other United Nations Organisations at Vienna in succession to Mr Christopher Hulse who will be moving to a new Diplomatic Service appointment. Dr Freeman, who will hold the personal rank of ambassador, will take up his appointment next month.



The Bishop of London, left, with Canon John Oates, Rector of St Bride's, Fleet Street, after he had commissioned the rector as Area Dean of the City of London yesterday.

Memorial services

Sir John May The Lord Chancellor was present at a memorial service for Sir John May, a former Lord Justice of Appeal and past Treasurer of the inner Temple, held on Wednesday at The Temple Church. Canon Joseph Robinson, Master of The Temple, officiated. Mrs Juliet Cameron, daughter,

read the lesson. Sir Francis Purread the lesson. Sir Francis Fun-chas gave an address.

The Lord Chief Justice, the Master of the Rolls and the President of the Family Division attended. Among others present were:

aftended. Among others present were:

Lady May (widow), Mr and Mrs Simon may (son and daughter-in-law), Mr Nicholas May (son). Mr James Cameron (son-in-law), Frederick May (grandson), Oilver Weson (step grandson), Oilver Weson (step grandson), Oilver Weson (step grandson), Oilver Weson (step grandson), Mr and Mrs Paul Peterson and other members of the family, Viscount and Viscountess Hood, Lady Markay of Clashlern. Lady Woolf. (the Treasurer of the Middle Temple. Lord Jenkin oil Roding (reoresening Cifilion College and the Oid Cliftonian Society) with Mr Hugh Monno (Readmaster) and Mrs Monno, and Mr Andrew Thornhill, OC (chairman of the council).

Lady Harris of Greenwich, Lord and Lady Dunboyne. Lord Goff of Chieveley, FRA, Lady Borrie. Lord Lloyd of Berwick, Lord and Lady Brandon of Colliforok, Lady Brown, the Treasurer of the Inner Temple and Lady Staughton, Lady Forens, Lord Justice and Lady Staughton, Lady Forens, Lord Justice Lidge Lord Justice and Lady Sylmon Thomas, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Hugher, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Lind Lady Sylmon Thomas, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Hugher, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Broake, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Roch, Lord Justice Lidge, Lord Justice Hugher, Sir John and the Hon Lady Stephenson, Lord Justice and Lady Stephenson, Lady Hira, Sir Michael and Lady Stay Hira, Sir Michael and Lady Stay Hira, Sir Michael and Lady Stay Hira, Sir Pallig, Sir David Croom-Johnson, Lady Neill, Sir Rajph Gloson, Sir Christopher and Lady Stade, Sir Palrick Russell, the Hon Mrs Justice Hogg, Shella Lady Bernard, Mr Justice Morand, Lady Honden, Mr Justice Morand, Lady Woodfield, Admiral Sir James Eberle, Lady Criffin, Sir Raiph and Lady Line. Mr Justice Morand, Lady Rodon, Sir Philip and Lady Woodfield, Admiral Sir James Eberle, Lady Griffin, Sir Raiph and Lady Line. Sir John and Lady Woodfield, Admiral Sir James Horle, Lady Cond. Sir William Stabb, Oc. and Lady Stabb. Sir John and Lady Wood, Sir William Stabb, Oc. a

Admiral Sir John and Lady Bush, Sir David and Lady Wood, Professor Sir John and Lady Wood, Professor Sir John Smith, QC, Lady (Deborah) Turner, Mr Charles and the Hon Mrs Wilson, Mr Petre Crowder, QC, and the Hon Mrs Crowder, QC, and the Hon Mrs Crowder, Judge Bavid Clarke, QC, and Mrs Crowder, Judge Payland, QC, and Mrs Pownall. Mrs I Robinson, His Honour and Mrs Preter Macsiair, His Honour Richard Lowry, QC, and Her Honour Richard Lowry, QC, and Her Honour Richard Lowry, QC, and Her Honour Nina Lowy, QC, His Honour George Dobry, QC. His Honour George Dobry, QC, His Honour Judge Pollock, Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, Mr Gerald Morfarty, QC, and Mrs Morfarty, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, Mr Gerald Morfarty, QC, and Mrs Morfarty, Mr Roger Henderson, QC, Mr Michael Sherrard, QC, Mr Grow Goodle, QC, Mr Gry Sankey, QC, Mr Michael Ge Navarro, QC. Mr Honour Roger Goodle, QC, Mr Even Stone, QC, Mr Michael Ge Navarro, QC, Mr North Michael Hill, QC, Mr Antonio Bueno, QC, Mr Michael Robinson, QC, Mr Ford Vivian Robinson, QC, Mr John Charles, QC, Mr William Crowther, QC, Mr Febrer Boydell, QC. Mr Globert Lamb, Mrs Charles Barker-Bennett, Miss Sally Barker-Bennett, Mrs David Buchanan, Mrs Roger Therdoge, QC, Mr Peter Boydell, QC. Mr Stone Mrs Lamb, Mrs Charles Barker-Bennett, Mrs Sally Barker-Bennett, Mrs David Buchanan, Mrs Ionna Rawlence, Mr and Mrs Mcarles, Mrs Lorna Rawlence, Mr Antony Smith, Dr and Mrs Roberton, Mr Antony Smith, Dr and Mrs Andrew Edwards, Mr Alassar Smith, Dr and Mrs An Thomas David Rush, Mr David, Mr Scheler, Mr Gordon Carlott, Mr Stephen Cobb, Mr O Sowande, Mrs John Williams, Mr Andrew Edwards, Mr Andrew Edwards, Mr Andrews, Mr Scheler, Mr Henry James, Mrs Lorna Rawlence. Mr Smith, Dr and Mrs An Toegery, Mr David Turner, Mr Mr Robert Williams, Cree Low Reports, Mr W. M. Clowell (Redcliffe School Trusti, Mr Thomas Dennes Chesterions Residential, and many other friends.

Sir Roger Falk A service of thanksgiving for the life of Sir Roger Falk, business-man, was held yesterday at St Bartholomew-the-Great, West Smithfield. The Rev Dr Martin Dudley officiated and the Right Rev John Taylor said the prayer and gave an opening address.

David Cook, Team Rector of the Church of St Nicholas, Newbury.

Nickolas Grace read from the works of William Shakespeare. Among others present were the and hirs Quendir Fall (son and daughter-in-law), Mrs Deborah Lawson and Miss Marianne Falk (daughter-in-law), Mrs Deborah Lawson and Miss Marianne Falk (daughters), Mr Paul Lawson, Mr Andrew Lawson and Laura Falk (grandchildren), Dr Tamsin O'Connell, Mr Gerald Stroud, Mrs Vall Brodrick, Mr Roben Brodrick, Miss Tessa Brodrick, Mr Roben Brodrick, Mrs Robenson, Sir Romaid and Lady Robenson, Sir Romaid and Lady Robenson, Sir Nigel Strut, Sir Alan Dawny, Sir Ansan and Lady Robenson, Sir Nigel Strut, Sir Alan Dawny, Sir Ansan and Lady Robenson, Sir Alan Hardrastine, Sir Colin Cole, Sir Philip Jones (honorary treasurer, Sadier's Wells Trust) with Mr Ian Dawlson (chadirman), Professor Gerald Manners (vice-president, Mr Paul Richardson (berhincal director, Sadier's Wells Theatret and Lady Legallais frepresenting the American Friends of Sadier's Wells.

Mr James Penstone (vice-president, The Vic-Wells Association) with Mrs Interpretating the American Friends of Sadier's Wells.

Mr James Penstone (vice-president, The Vic-Wells Association) with Mrs David Lawson, Mrs Bill Tyrwhita-Drake (president and honorary secretary, The Halleybury, Society) and Mrs Tyrwhita-Drake, Mr Jim Dopaldson (P-Person Trustees), Mr Peter Scott (Provincial Insurance), Mr Mr Bruno Gabriele A memorial service for the life and work of Mr Bruno Gabriele, investment banker, was held yes terday at St Margaret's Church, Westminster Abbey, Canon Don-ald Gray officiated and the Rev

Sadler's Wells Trust, read a tribute

written by Lady Solti and Mr

Nickolas Grace read from the works of William Shakespeare.

led the prayers.

Mr Nicholas Lyons and Mr Steven Berger read the lessons. Mr Raymond Seitz, Vice-Chairman of Lehman Brothers International (Europe), gave an address.

The Rev Jonathan Goodall, Chanlain and Sacrist of Westminster Abbey, was robed and in the Sanctuary.

Anniversaries 1869; Hans Hofmann, painter,

Mr Hugh Lang gave an address. Mr Ian Albery, chief executive,

BIKTHS: Johann Sebastian Bach. composer. Eisenach, Germany. 1685; Claude-Nicolas Ledoux, architect, Dormans-sur-Marne, 1736: Jean Paul Richter humorist Wunsiedel, Germany, 1763: Jean Baptiste Fourier, mathematician, Auxerre. France. 1768: Henry Kirke White, poet, Nottingham, 1785; Benito Juarez, President of Mexico 1861-72, San Pablo, Mexico, 1806; Modest Mussorgsky, composer, Karevo, 1835; Albert Chevalier, music-hall entertainer, London, 1861: H.A.L. Fisher, historian, London, 1865; Florenz Zieg-feld, theatrical producer, Chicago,

clergyman and Arctic explorer Torquay, 1857; Sir Michae Weissenberg, Germany, 1880; Erich Mendelsohn, architect, Redgrave, actor, Denham, Buck-Allenstein, East Prussia, 1887. DEATHS: Thomas Cranmer, Archbishop of Canterbury 1533-56, burnt at the stake, Oxford, 1556; James Ussher, Archbishop of Armagh 1625-56, Reigate, Surrey, 1656; Samuel Parker, Bishop of Oxford 1686-88, Oxford, 1688; John Law, economist, Venice, 1729; Richard Dawes, scholar, Heworth, Newcastle, 1766; Jean-Baptiste Greuze, painter, Paris, 1805; Rob-ert Southey, Poet Laureate 1813-43,

inghamshire, 1985; Leo Fender, pioneer of the electric guitar, Fullerton, California, 1991. Aneurin Bevan announced government proposals for a National Health Service, 1946. Dr Kwame Nkrumah was elected the first African Prime Minister south of the Sahara, 1952.

Africans were massacred by police at Sharpeville, South Africa, 1960. Alcatraz prison in the Bay of San Francisco closed, 1963.

Dinners

HM Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrates
Lord Bingham of Cornhill, the
Lord Chief Justice, the Hon Mr
Justice Gage, Mr David Pannick,
QC, and Mr David Loy, CBE, the
retiring Senior Provincial Supendiary Magistrate, were the guests
of HM Metropolitan Supendiary
Magistrate, at their Annual Din-Magistrates at their Annual Dinner held at the Middle Temple last mght. The Chief Metropolitan Magistrate, Mr Peter Badge, presided.

Winston Churchill Memorial

Lady Soames, Chairman of the Trustees of the Winston Churchill Memorial Trust, was the host at a dinner held last night at the Royal Thames Yacht Club in honour of Mr and Mrs Anthony Montague Brown to mark his relinquishing the chairmanship of the council of the trust. Mr Ian Beer, the newly appointed chairman of the council. was present 13 Old Square, Lincoln's lon

To mark the retirement of Mr E.W.H. Christie as Head of Chambers after 18 years, a Dirner was given at the Old Hall, Lincoln's lan, on March 19, 1997, by past and present members of his former Chambers at 13 Old Square, Lincoln's Inn. Those present in-cluded: Lord Oliver of Aylmerton, Lord Nicholls of Birkenhead, the Right Hon Sir Brian Dillon, the Hon Mr Justice Blackburne, the Hon Mr Justice Rimer, Mr David Burton, Professor Sir Robert Jennings, QC; Mr R.W.M. Dias, Mr Richard Christie, Professor Kurt Lipstein, Mr John Hopkins and Mr Vijay Shankardass. In keeping with Chambers' tradition, the Junior Tenant, Miss Rebecca Stubbs. made a speech, Mr Michael Lyn-don-Stanford, QC (joint Head of Chambers with Mr A.W.H. Charles, Treasury Counsel) also spoke and presented a silver snuffbox to Mr Christie. Association of Chartered

Certified Accountants
Mr Peter Langard, President of the
Association of Chartered Certified Accountants, presided at the annual dinner of held last night at Guildhall. Mr Juan Herrera. President of the International Federation of Accountants, was the speaker. Among the guests were: The High Commissioners for Zembla. Malawi and Malla, the Acting High Commissioners for South Africa, Mauritius and Trinidad and Tobago, the Charge d'Affaires at the Stovak Embassy, the Chief Economic Adviser to the Treasury, the First Civil Service Commissioner and the Chairman of the Inland Revenue. industrial Tribunals for England

and Wales Judge Lawrence, the President of Industrial Tribunals for England and Wales, presided at a dinner for regional chairmen held last night at the Reform Club. Mr Justice Morison, President of the Employment Appeal Tribunal, Mr Maguire, President, Northern Ire-land, and Mr. M. B. Wilson, the Secretary of Tribunals, among the guests.

Service dinners HMS Collingwood

Vice-Admiral Sir Jonathan Tod, Deputy Commander Fleet, was the guest of honour at a wardroom mess guest night held last night onboard HMS Collingwood. Royal Artillery
The American Ambassador and

Mrs Crowe were present at the Royal Artillery spring dinner held last night at Woolwich. Field urshal Lord Vincent of Co Master Gunner, St James's Park, presided. Among others present

werter
The Mayor and Mayoress of
Greenwich, the Right Rev Francis J.
Walmsley, Sir Patrick Mayhew, QC.
MP, and Lady Mayhew, Sir Harry and
Lady Secombe, Major-General and
Mrs Iain Mackay-Dick and MajorGeneral and Mrs Eric Barton. Southampton University Air Squadron Air Vice-Marshal John Thompson,

Air Officer Commanding Southampton University Air Squadron and Commandant RAF College Cranwell, was the guest of honour at the annual dinner of the squadron held last night at Boscombe Down. Squadron Lead-er S.P. Jarmain, Commanding Officer, presided.

Forthcoming * marriages

Captain F.S. Acton and Miss A.R. Beck The engagement is announced between Francis, eidest son of Mr and Mrs T.S. Acton, of Acton Scutt, Shropshire, and Alison, youngest daughter of Reverend and Mrs G.S. Beck of Coniston, Cumbria.

Mr G.M. Boyle and Miss S.K. Pearson The engagement is announced between Gary, eldest son of Mr and Mrs Gerry Boyle, of Barnsley. Gloucestershire, and Sophie, eider daughter of Mr and Mrs Barry Pearson, of Darley Dale Derbyshire.

Mr G.W. Buckley and Miss M.A.R. Tomsen The engagement is armounced between George William Buckley, of Lyme Regis, only son of the late james William and Phyllis Buckley, and Mary Angela Rhona Tomsen, of Northington, Hamp-shire, only daughter of the late Revd John and Mrs Tomsen.

Mr CJ. Davison and Miss V.L. Riding
The engagement is amnounced between Christopher, eldest son of Mr and Mrs John Davison, of Weybridge, Surrey, and Victoria, only daughter of Mr and Mrs Michael Riding, of Stoke Bishop, Bristol.

Mr M.W. Grindlay and Miss S.L. Hopkins The engagement is announced between Max, younger son of the late Mr R B. Grindlay and of Mrs late Mr. R.B. Grindlay and or wifs J.M. Grindlay, of Long Irchington, Warwickshire, and Sarah, edder daughter of Mr and Mrs Anthony Hopkins, of Brewood, Staffurdshire.

Dr C.V. House and Miss C.L. Morgan
The engagement is announced between Charles, eldest son of Mr. and Mrs Bill House, of Sevenoaks, Kent, and Caroline, daughter of Mrs Joan Morgan, of Newton

Stewart, Galloway and the late Mr Barton T. Morgan. Mr G.R. Sataloff and Miss C.E. Breslin The engagement is announced between Glenn, youngest son of the late Mr S.J. Sataloff and of Mrs

B. Sataloff, of Northridge, California, USA, and Clare, elder daughter of Mr and Mrs P.J.R. Breslin. of Winnbledon, London. Mr B.J. Taylor and Miss V.J. Griffiths

The engagement is announced between Ben, elder son of Mr Rod Taylor, of Hale, Cheshire, and Mrs Sarah Taylor, of Wilmslow. Cheshire, formerly of Alderley Edge, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs John Griffiths, of Bramball, Cheshire.

Mr M.E.T. Tregonning and Miss M.A. Williamson.

The engagement is announced between Martin, younger son of Mr and Mrs John Tregonning, of Auckland, New Zealand, and Margaret, daughter of Mr and Mrs - Walter Willia Codsall, Staffordshire.

Marriage Mr M. Lyons

and Mrs J. Rose The marriage took place on Tues-day, March 18, 1997, at Claridges, London, between Malcolm, son of Eve and Leo Lyons, and Jo daughter of Monz and Cecil Jacobs.

Freemen of the City of London -

The following have been installed as officers of the Guild of Freemen of the City of London for the ensuing year: Master, Sir Anthony Grant, MP.

Senior Warden, Mr Norman S. Munday; Renter Warden, Mr Terry Nemko; Junior Warden, Mr Joseph C.F.B. Byllam-Barnes; Under Warden, Mr D.M.B. Irving.

TRADE: 0171 481 1982

- FAX: 0171 481 9313

BMDS: 0171 680 6880 PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

Then Jeremiah took another scroll and gave it to the scribe Baruch son of Nexish who wrote on it at Jeremiah's dictation all the worth of the back which laborated. of the book which jet the king had burnt in fire. Jerumlah 36 ; 32 et in the

APPLERY - On 16th March, to Catrina and Geoff, a daughter, Sarah Elizabeth, a sister for Thomas. 30MHAM-CARTER - On March 17th 1997, to Katle (née Dawnay) and Crispin, a son, Arthur Thomas Patrick.

CATTANEO - On 18th March at The Portland Hospital, to Cristians and Emilio, a CHOTAI - On March 18th 1997 at The Portland Hospital, to Krishna and Sundin, a son, Aman, a brother for Bahul.

DE MEESTER - On March 17th at The Portland Hospital, to Angeline (nés Burne) and Charles, a daughter, Daisy Georgina. GREGORY - On March 17th at

The Portland Sospital, to Christine and Lyndam, a daughter, Dominique. HAPPELL - On March 18th b Melbourne, Australia, to Tatty (née Joseland) and Michael, a daughter, Annabelia, a sister for

HARGREAVES - On March 13th at 9.49 pm, to Valerie and Matthew, Maximillian Marcus Day, a brother for Jessica.

HENDERSON - On 20th March, to Alexandra and James, a daughter, a sister for Felix and Atalanta. Others - On March 20th in Capetown, to Bridget and Julian, a son, Richard

(EFIH - On 18th March, to Eleanor (née Woodhead) and James, a thrughter, Facebe, a sister for Fizvia and Sam. MELLY - On 12th March 1997, to Piona (née Cocil-Smith) to Flona (pée Cocil-Smith and Miles, a son, James Richard, brother to Alexander.

GRADBÉ - On March 8th 1997, to Alice (née Grogan) and Christopher, a son, Charles James Hume. MARTIN - On March 14th, to Clare (nee Lewis) and Goy, a son, Edward.

DEATHS McCAPPREY - On 10th Manch 1997 at Princess Margaret Hospital, Windson, to Marias (née Trefry) and Tim, a son, jack Trefry, a brother for Condr and Syan. MEALIM - To Finns (née Shinweil) and Brent on Priday 7th March in Isle of Man a son, Alexander Brent Shinweil, a brother for Christopher. MITCHELL - On March 14th at The Portland Hospital, to Yvozne, 2 son, Benjamin Ricardo, my bundle of joy. MSZEN - On March 15th, t Julia (née Daadman) an Piers, a son, Christopher.

SHEPHERD-CROSS - On Marci 19th, in Harrogate, to Dorte and Harry, a son, Jack Henry

DEATHS BEEFY-THOMPSON - Clarice died peacefully at The Dutay House Nursing Home, Summingdale, on March 19th aged 94 years. Enquiries to Lines Bannister, 69 High Street, Ascot, (01344) 20266.

20266.

BRACK - Noll aged 94 years on 19th March 1997, peacefully at The Princess Alexandra Hespital Beslow, after a short Illness. Belowed husband of Joyce, father of Terence and Mertel and father-in-law of Douglas and Christine. Punetal Service to be held at Pangdon Wood Crematorium, Harlow, Essex on Wednesday 26th March at 1230 pm. Flowers and all enquiries to the Fagetal Director Daniel Robinson & Sons Ltd., Wych Elm, Harlow, Essex, tak (01279) 426990.

BREEN - Victor John on 18th

CLARKE - On 15th March, 1997 peacefully after 4% years of exceptional care at the Dower House Nursing Home, Headbourne Worthy, Gladys (Stick) aged 94. Widow of the late W. de M. (Bill) Clarke, mother of Denys and Sas, grandmother of Michael, William and Giles. Formerly of Nuntum (Sallisbury), Stoke Poges, jamake and Cafle, Pomeni has already taken place, donations if desired to Selisbury Hospice Care Trust, clo IN, Newman Ld., Griffin House, S5 Winchester Street, Salisbury, Wilks. Piers, a son, Christopher.

PECK - On 10th March, to Cindy (ade Lesile) and Andrew, a daughter, Sophie Elizabeth, a sister for William and James.

PHELIPS - On March 17th, to Louise (ade Wilkins) and William, a son, Patrick.

PLUMMER - On 1st March, to Anna (ade Mansfeld) and Adam, a daughter, Eleanor Margaret Clementhe.

SHEPMERD-CROSS - On March COMANT - Peter Edward
Maurice paacefully on
March 17th, dearly loved
husband of Betty (Lisbeth).
Private counation on March
26th. No flowers but
donations if desired for the
Salisbury Hospice Care
Trust c/o I.N. Newman,
Griffin House, 55
Winchester Street, Salisbury
SPI 18tl.

de MAIMY - Erik, suddenly, in Lancaster, on March 18th, aged 76. Much loved hushand of Elizabeth and father of Marc and Alk

beloved of many friends.
Funeral Mass at St Peter's
Cathedral, Lancaster, 12
noon Wednesday 26th
March Budal in France, RLP.
Flowers, or donations to the DUBICAN - George penesially in Tours, France, February 19th 1997. The funcational place in Tours. He is greatly missed by all his family since even in his absence his strength and conviction continue to support them. Alternoolal Service has been arranged to celebrate and give thanks for his life.

EPPEL - Helen peacefully at home on 20th March. Much loved wife of the late Dr. Cacil Eppel and mother of Bee (Bettina). Funeral Service Monday 24th March 2.15 pm Golders Green Crematorium (East Chapel), Hoop Lane, NW11. Engulries to M.M. Broad & Son, (0181) 445-2797. March, suddealy. He was dearly loved and will be sadly missed. All enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd., tel: (01903) 787188.

FREUS - Lilian May (nie Pae), widow of Raymond, passed away peacefully on March 15th at Backland Hospital, Dover, aged 83, following a fell earlier in the year. Beloved mother of Stephan and John and much loved grandmother and greatgrandmother. Private cremation to take place at Banham on Thursday March 27th, followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at St. Andrew's Church, Illiananstone, at I pm. Andrew's Church, Tilmanstone, at I pm. Please, no flowers, but donations, if desired, to World Vision, 599 Avebury Boulevard, Milton Keynes, MK9 3PG.

GIONIS - Nicolaos died pascefully on March 17th 1997 in Cardiff. Loving husband of Farmi and loving father of John, Evangelos and Panagioti. Grandiather to Nicholas, Paul, Mark and Nicolas. Family fumeral at the Gueck Orthodox Chunch, Cardiff, on Wednesday March 26th.

GREATHEAD - On March 19th peacefully at home in Kalk Eay, South Africa, Philip James Greathead aged 77. Eff. Margaret, widow of Bill, on 19th March in her 90th year. Beloved mother, peroved mother, grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral Calverieigh Caurch, 2 pm on Monday 24th March. No

flowers but donations if desired to Calvert Trust Exmoor, Witlandpound, Barnstaple, North Devon, EE31 45]. MERCHER - Lazar on March 16th 1997 at St. Many's Hospital. Paddington, at the age of 86 after several years of III-health. He was the beloved husband of IIIIy, the loving father of Richard and the adoring grandfather of James, Laurence (deceated), Rufus and Millie. The funeral took place on 20th March 1997 at the Liberal Jewish Commerce; Pound Lane, Willesten Condolence letters to R.J. Sant & Co., 1C Westminster Court, Aberdeen Place, London NWS SIN. ER - Lazar on March 16th

JARVIS - The Reverend Wilfrid Harry passed peacefully away 10th March 1997, much loved husband of Jean and beloved father of Rebelph and Oavid Requiem Mass at St Marchias Church, Sneinton, Nottingham, Tuesday 25th March 12,30pm. Donations if desired to The Nottingham New Appeals Organisation desired to The Nottingham New Appeals Organisation t/o Lymns, Robin Hood House, Nottingham. JEAVONS - Professor Peter

JEAVONS - Professor Peter Machin peacefully at his home March 17th 1977 aged 76 years. Beloved husband of Patry, much howed father of Michael and father-in-law of Seends and Maggie and a devoted grandps of Ruth, Sarah, Emma and Bachvi-Funeral Service at Lodge Hill Crematorium, Birmingham, on Monday, March 24th at 11.30 am. Family flowers only, donations if desired to Save the Children Fund of Thos. Furber & Co. Ltd., 122, Station Road, Harborne, Simingham, Bi7 9LS. McCOHMICK - Stephan, on March 19th, at home in Hamilton, New Zealand (late of Putley, Suzzey), Iwaband of Dorotay (Harisad).

or Dorothy (Markane).

O'SULINAN - Sister Funcis
Xavier LB.V.M., died
suddenly March 17th 1997
at Loveto, Llandudno.
Formerly Headmistress
Loveto Grammer School,
Nottingham RIP. Requiem
Mass Monday 24th March
1997 at 12 noon, onr Lady
Star of the Sea Parish
Church, Llandudno, North
Wales. PATON - Hamish Kini

51 years peacefully at home on 18th Match after a short illness, Much loved husband of Marian and father of Marian and father of of Marian and father of Nicholas and Susan, Femenal Service at the Chilterns Cremetorium, Amersham, on 27th March at 2 pp. Faudy flowers only. Donations if desired to the Camer Research Campaign. Enquiries (01494) 672668. tumSBY - Peter Lewis on March 18th, devoted husband of Margaret, loving father and grandfather. Thanksgiving Service at Milland Evangelical Church at 12 noon on March 25th.

ROWSOM - On March 19th
1997 at the R.U.H. Eath,
Rattcliff (Ratty) aged 75.
Much loved husband of
Elinor, father of Salile and
Freser, Joanna and Philip
and dearly loved Gratty of
Duncan, Gry, Bryony and
Rebecta, Cremetion private.
Thanksgiving Service at St.
john's Church Rebecca. Cremation private.
Thanksgiving Service at St
John's Church, Hinton
Charterhouse, on Thursday
April 3rd at 11.30 am.
Donations in lieu of flowers
for the RNLL or Churches Conservation Trust c/o CS.

Bowyer Ltd., 2 The Bullpix,
Bradford-on-Avon, BAI5
1NB.

Keswick, 1843; William Scoresby,

SHEPHARD - John Neville tragically on March 17th 1997 in Sythey, Australia, loving husband to Sarah, much loved son of Neville and the late Mary and dear brother of Alison and Helen. Pounetly of East Claydon, Bucks, Funeral at St Mary's Church, East Claydon, on Wednesday April 2nd at 2pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to "John Shephard Memorial "John Shephard Memorial Fund" c/o 2 St Albans Road, Relgate, RH2 7LM Further delgate, RH2 7LM Further delgate, RH2 7LM Further Sons, Winslow, tel: (01296) 713341.

SMITH - On March 19th, 1997, Dorothy Helen, aged 101 years, wife of the late Major Summer Hugh Smith, M.C. RAMC, of Furningham Kent. Dear mother of Hope Caldicott and the lote Antony and late Richard. Funeral private.

SOMERSET - On March 19th

SOMERSET - On March 19th 1997 peacefully after a long tilness, Edward John Somerset M.S. London. Indian Medical Service retired Very much loved husband of Maev, dearest father of Daphne and Pamela, loved and loving grandfather of Robert, Peter and Alexandra, Service at the Harrogate Crematorium on Tousday March 25th at 3 pm. Family flowers only, no letters plense. Donarious in letters pleme. Donations in memory may be given to Cancer Relief Macmillan Fund, 3 Fawcett Street, Tork YOI 4AH.

STOMEY - Robert Offiver Vessey of Lough Grew, late of Rostnik, Newport, Co. Mayo. 19th March 1997, peacefully after a sudden filmess. Loving and beloved husband of Ann, father of Bunita, Robert, Alam, Eleanor and Charlotte. Funeral Service in Holy Trinity Church, Westport, at 2 pm Saturday 22nd March followed by Interment at St Catherine's Church, Newport.

THOMAS - Suddenly but peacefully on Tuesday Manch 18th at the University Hospital of Wales, Cardiff, Gethyn, dearly beloved father of Sian, Anne and Jenemy, adored grandfather of Gareth, Ehlannon, Clivie, Caroline and Beu, and affectionate father-to-law of Owen, David and Helen. Service to be held in Service to be held in Llandaff Cathedral at 12.30pm on Wednesday March 26th and ofterwards flowers please, donations if desired to Friends of Liandaif Cathedral, c/o 29 The Cathedral

WOODS - Paul Anthony, much loved husband of Clare, father of Jamie and Hannah and son of Michael and Darice, peacefully on March 19th. Service at The Sacred Heart Church, Edge Hill, Wimbledon, on Tuesday March 25th at 10 am followed by cremation as March 25th at 10 am followed by cremation at Pulmer Vale Crematorium. Family flowers only. Domations if desired to the British Heart Foundation and Imperial Cancur Research c/o Mears & Cottentil, 169 Merton Road, Wandsworth SWIS SEF, tel: (0181) 874-7678.

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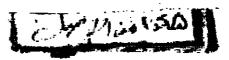
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PORTHCOMING MARRIAGES AND MARRIAGES Over the Easter period the following deadline will apply:
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29th, Monday Morch 31st and Thesday April 1st most be
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WILLEM DE KOONING

Willem de Kooning artist, died on March 19 aged 92. He was born on April 24, 1904.

illem de Kooning was the last surviving giant of modern art. He the centre of the American art movement known as Abstract Expressionism, which started in the 1940s in New York and went on to dominate American and European contemporary art for the next twenty years.

Abstract Expressionism was about liberation, freeing art from the things it no longer needed. It had its genesis in the experience of a generation which had spent its youth in a major economic depression and its young adulthood in a world war. It was personal and self-revelatory in style, yet evoked timeless emotions. fears and beliefs.

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Even after its passing, right up to the art of today, the movement continues to exert a powerful influence. The styles that followed it, and which were in various ways reactions against it -- Pop Art, Conceptualism and Minimalism, for example - all drew heavily on attitudes that were already in place in the Abstract Expressionist aesthetic, namely radical doubt and a profoundly ambivalent love-hate relationship with the past.

De Kooning's work went through considerable changes in his long life. He never lost touch altogether with figuration, but recognisable things seemed to come and go in his paintings. He painted pictures that were harsh angular abstracts, with gritty surfaces, which were understood to be metaphors for modern urban life. Other pictures were flowing and lyrical, with sweet, rich colour, and these were seen as poetic amalgams of natural landscape forms and

the female body. De Kooning himself changed too, from the art history book figure who reinvented the heroic early Modernism of Picasso and Matisse, recasting it for a new age, living in poverty until well into his forties; to the cultural icon, the Marlon Brando of the 1950s art world, good-looking in a T-shirt, achieving sudden and enor-

mous wealth and fame; to the vulnerable man who descended into a semi-hell of drink and tranquillisers, but went on turning out works of startling originality, grace and beauty until old age and chronic illness finally caused him to stop working. His style was to improvise

extraordinary visual events. The improvising was highenergy and aggressive, an endless process of making, erasing and remaking. He famously alternated long bouts of frenzied activity with periods of staring and worrying. The final results are compelling. The pictures cannot be pinned down. They look ugly and elegant at the same time, direct and revealing, yet strange and ambiguous, too.

Willem de Kooning was born in Rotterdam, Holland. He was apprenticed at the age of 12 to a local company of commercial artists run by the decorators Jan and Jaap Gidding. His talent prompted Jaap to arrange for him to artend night classes at the local art and craft school, the Akademie voor Beeldende en Technischen Wetenschappen. There, over a period of eight years as a pupil, he acquired a strict academic training and a wide range of craft skills.

Graduating in 1926, he also attended art schools in Brussels and Antwerp, In art theory, the de Stijl group around Mondrian and Van Doesburg was then predominant. From 1920 to 1926, de Kooning worked as assistant to Bernard Romein, art director of a Rotterdam department Setting his sights, however,

on America (where Mondrian himself was to arrive years later in 1940), de Kooning, after several unsuccessful attempts, arrived in the United States as a stowaway in 1926. Working first as a house painter in Hoboken, New Jersey, he moved to New York in 1927, taking a variety of jobs in decorating, signwriting, carpentry, commercial art and stage design.

In the next few years de Kooning, who had become a "Sunday painter", became friends with Arshile Gorky. the Russian painter who had arrived in the US in 1920 and who was then teaching in New

Gorky was to paint de Kooning's portrait around 1937, as Portrait of Master Bill. Another friend was John Graham, born Ivan Danibrowsky in Kiev, painter, writer and collector, who brought many modern European ideas to art in America and whose portrait busts of strange. cross-eyed females may have influenced the images of women for which de Kooning was to become famous.

ning made many uncompleted works, with three main themes: men, women, and abstraction. The men (a theme he dropped after the 1940s) and the women showed his admiration for Ingres in particular, and were realistic in style. The biomorphic, flat abstractions showed more of the influence of Arp, Miro, and Picasso, along with the linear structures of de Stijl. But it was not until 1935 that de Kooning decided to give all his time to fine art.

During the 1930s de Koo-

n the early 1940s, de Kooning's studies of women lost their realistic appearance and began to mingle with the background paint and colours. In the mid-1940s his paintings grew more violent, with accident increasingly determining their composition. Sometimes collage was used to break them up. and in 1946 he embarked on a series of even more violent black-and-white paintings. done with cheap household enamels, which marked the final disappearance of recognisable form in his work. His first one-artist exhibition was at the Egan Gallery in 1948, although he had already shown with other artists such as Jackson Pollock.

By 1950 the Abstract Expressionist movement was well under way. Pollock. de Kooning, Gorky, Clyfford Still, Mark Rothko and Barnett Newman had made a name for themselves. The gestural freedoms of de Kooning and Hans Holmann, especially. inspired a new generation. And since up-and-coming artists could enrol in Hofmann's art school on Eighth Street and meet de Kooning any night at the Cedar Street Tavern or around East Tenth Street, they became the "New York School".



and passionate conversationalist, and was admired by the younger generation for his integrity and dedication to art, and for his risk-taking — or "going for broke", in the language of the times. He was imitated right across America.

Despite all his experience of abstraction in his own and his friends' work, human reference never quite disappeared from de Kooning's art. His art seemed to develop under conflicting pressures. He said that it is absurd to paint a human image but just as absurd not to. He wanted to stay ahead of his critics, to escape their pigeonholing. But at the same

them, to draw them along. Having achieved notoriety with what might be described as a kind of allusive abstraction, he suddenly lurched, in the early 1950s, into what seemed like full-blown figuration. He painted wild night-

mare sex goddesses. like

female versions of Franken-

stein's monster, their body parts - faces, breasts, teeth, limbs - only partly coordinated. His Woman I (1950-52) seen in London in 1959 when the epoch-making show The New American Painting arrived at the Tate Gallery -

became his most famous im-

critic to "Mother Kali walking the New York streets as a bag-lady". De Kooning himself was surprised that nobody ever noticed how funny his Women" paintings were.

For all their spontaneous appearance as savage, demonic daubs, de Kooning's female images have often a long history of radical daily repaintings and changes of mood. His own awareness of tradition - in contrast to the self-consciously independent attitude of some of the more "American" painters of the New York School - and strong sense of composition

are always present.

De Kooning said that art never made him feel "peaceful or pure". Instead he was always wrapped up in the melodrama of vulgarity". And his art over the next thirty years was indeed a triumph of impurity. In the 1960s and 1970s, when he was no longer at the centre of art world discussion, the women became more comic and cartoon-

like, the landscapes more melted and misty, the brushwork more liquid and glutinous, the colour more bruised and effulgent. For some years after 1969, de Kooning took up sculpture. Many critics have argued that de Kooning's work de-clined after the 1950s. As his fame grew and his market

value rose, he became increasingly isolated from critics and other artists. He had moved out of Manhattan to a quiet, purpose-built studio home in Long Island. His behaviour became erratic and self-de-structive. He had already been drinking heavily when he was young, and by the late 1970s he was extremely ill. Nursed by his wife, Elaine de Kooning, from whom he had long been separated, he made a partial recovery and began painting after a two-year break.

De Kooning's central position through the decades of the New York School (ultimately as its elder statesman) was dramatically underlined in May 1987, when his Pink Lady of 1944 set a record price for a living artist, of \$3.63 million - only subsequently exceeded, in prices for postwar painting, by the work of Jackson Pollock and Jasper Johns. Then in November 1989, de Kooning's Interchange of 1955 set a further, vastly increased, record of \$20.68 million - selling to a Japanese collector.

In 1989, when he was in his mid-eighties, de Kooning was announced to be suffering from Alzheimer's disease. His daughter, Lisa de Kooning, issued a statement that he had been declared legally incompetent, and after that his life was organised on a daily basis by teams of nurses and lawyers. He stopped painting in 1990. He had exhibited very little in the 1980s but soon some of the paintings from that decade, which had been hidden in his studio, began

appearing in public exhibi-tions and subsequently in the auction houses, where they fetched high prices.

These late paintings, made partly with the aid of assistants, are curiosities rather than masterpieces. They marked another radical stylistic break. The colours were reduced to stark primaries and white, and where there had been rich, atmospheric spaces, there was now a recurring flat, almost diagrammatic configuration, part female anatomy, part land-scape. The shapes were like schematic versions of his earlier paintings, and in fact many of them were based on slide projections of earlier works.

ut were these pictures really "de Koonings" at all? He had painted them, but was he really himself at the time? How far back had he become ill? He could no longer sign his own name when many of them were executed. Surely, it was objected, significant art is not just a matter of unfettered emotion and creativity, but relies also on a build-up of knowledge and experience, on high mental alertness?

The critical and philosophical speculations that the pictures aroused when they appeared were thrown into lurid relief by the fact that their market value was in the region of a million dollars per painting, and that there were known to be about three hundred of them. A number were gathered together at the Museum of Modern Art in New York earlier this year. and the reception was mixed.

In the end it may be that de Kooning's last great flowering - his period of late greatness like the famous late periods of Matisse or Titian, say. - was not the 1980s but the 1970s. This was the time when he perhaps felt most free from outside pressures, and was able - physically, emotionally and spiritually - to make something unique and significant out of that freedom.

Elaine Marie Catharine Fried, whom de Kooning married in 1943 and who as Elaine de Kooning won her own considerable reputation as a painter and writer, died in 1989. De Kooning is survived by his daughter.

JACQUES FOCCART

Jacques Foccart, special adviser on African affairs to Presidents de Gaulle. idou and Chirac, died in Luzarches, near Paris, on March 19 aged 83. He was born on August 31, 1913, at Ambrières les Vallées, in the Department of Mayenne.

FOR forty years, Jacques Foccart played the leading and often conspiratorial role in maintaining France's ties and influences in the African countries that had once been part of the French Empire. He was so successful that, despite the idol, General de Gaulle, at the start of the 1960s, France was able to retain a protective role that paid economic dividends in raw materials, notably oil, but, above all, in strategic influence.

With his famous networks, or reseaux, of political, military and secret service contacts, Foccart was the architect of a form of neo-colonialism. backed by contingents of French paratroops, that has only recently shown signs of cracking with the advent of new, more democratic, leaders in the 1990s and, to an extent. the rise in American influence

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decolonisation decreed by his in the region. Foccart's last crusade was against what he considered American ploning in France's African domaine

The death of the Frenchman known as "L'Africain" ironi-cally coincided with the decline of the regime of President Mobutu of Zaire, a Frenchspeaking despot he had long supported. Mobutu was a frequent visitor to Foccart's house near Paris and the Frenchman's hacking was largely instrumental in his remaining welcome in France to this day.

Other African leaders of French-speaking states had

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need over the years for more muscular support. It was said that Foccart had standing orders from them to intervene with French troops when necessary. Only the dates were kept blank on these documents in Foccart's office in the Elysee Palace. He helped to restore the deposed President Leon Mba in Gabon in 1964 and later supported Mba's successor Omar Bongo, whose long reign has been a typical example of France's post-colonial African connection, based us it is on a trade-off of Gabonese oil, via the French Elf company, and a French military garrison.

Some of his proteges, however, proved to be disasters, none more so than the late self-styled Emperor Jean-Bedel Bokassa, of the Central African Republic-cum-Empire, who was later overthrown but settled in France like so many other ex-dictators, some of whom lived in style on the Riviera. Foccart, who had founded

the Gaullist movement's own paramilitary organisation. thrived on secrecy and the nature of his ties, for example, to Colonel Bob Denard, tragicomic leader of several African coups d'état, was never clear. He always told interviewers that they could read everything later in the archives. The only boast he could not resist was that he had held an estimated 3,000 tête-à-tête meetings with de Gaulle over the eleven-year period between de Gaulle's return to power in 1958 and his resigna-

tion in 1969. De Gaulle was the guiding force in the life of Foccart, who was born into a family of prosperous farmers and then raised in Guadeloupe where the family also had land. Later, in France, he went into business - notably the sale of Renault cars in the French West Indies — and did well.

The destiny of this short, rather rotund, fastidiouslydressed provincial businessman was changed by the war. He organised parachute drops on behalf of the secret service branch of the Free French in London. After the Liberation.

"ROSE MARIE."

MUSICAL COMEDY AT DRURY LANE.

Bless thee, thou art translated,"

Quince was saying each night a little

while ago to his fellow actor in the play

within a play at the Drury Lane

Theatre. Then it was the actor who was

"translated." Last night we could not

help feeling that the theatre had been

"translated," too. Then there was Shake-

speare: now there is very modern fare

from America. Then we were looking at

"the parts about" Athens; now we have

the Canadian Rockies. Then there was A

Midsummer Night's Dream; now there

is a winter's day dream, for the heroine

falls in love among snow-capped moun-

tains, only to fall out of it in the town and

to fall back into it again at the end. Then

too we had comedy; now we have music,

for Rose Marie is carefully described

not as a "musical comedy" but as a

"musical piece." The latter it certainly is,

for the music is distinctly above the

average, and the singing throughout is

admirable. The former it can hardly



de Gaulle rewarded him with the post of aide-de-camp and special adviser on France's overseas departments and African colonies. Foccart was to accompany

de Gaulle on several major African tours in the 1950s. In the meantime, he had been one of a small group of faithful supporters, which had set up the first postwar Gaullist political party, the RPF (Rassemblement du Peuple Français). He became the RPF's general secretary in 1954 and was well placed to take part in the manoeuvring and plotting that led to the Algiers putsch of May 13, 1958, which preceded de Gaulle's return to

power. From that moment, he had his own office in the Elysee with overall responsibility for African affairs and the secret services. He had direct access to de Gaulle and it was said

that, when another generals' putsch in Algiers in 1961 threatened de Gaulle's hold on power, the French President entrusted important state papers and "fall-back" emergency plans to Foccart. De Gaulle always referred to Foccart as "le Pere Joseph", a title of approval denoting his possessing many of the secretive and serviceable qualities of Cardinal Richelieu's original eminence grise of that

De Gaulle and Foccart both loathed transparency. The former considered secrecy an indispensable part of the mystique of power, the latter a necessary tool in his dealings. which included an about turn on Algérie Française, which he supported, and then adapting to sub-Saharan decolonis-

His power was such that French police officers were persuaded to take part in the abduction (and, almost certainly, the murder) in Paris in 1965 of Mehdi Ben Barka, the Moroccan opposition leader, by a secret service man, telling them "Foccart is in the picture".

He was a founder of the notorious Service d'Action Civique, the Gaullist Party's internal police force, later accused by the Americans of engaging in drug trafficking. To these and other accusations Foccart would reply that de Gaulle would not have kept him for 24 hours, let alone 24 years, if any of the charges had been true.

by Africa. Although he had granted independence to colonies in West and Central Africa he saw these states as essential backing for France's role in the world and in forums such as the UN. Foccart, who listed his occupation as "exporter", as well as Secretary-General for the French Community and African Affairs, engaged in the daily task of maintaining harmonious and profitable relations with France's African supporters, notably the longtime Ivory Coast leader, Felix Houphouet-Boigny. Foccart's main listening post was in Dakar, Senegal, the one-time capital of French West Africa. President Pompidou re-

De Gaulle was fascinated

tained his services, but Giscard d'Estaing, implicated in a diamonds scandal with Bokassa, did not. President Chirac rehired Foccart upon his election in 1995, and the old Africa hand once again had an official office. He certainly had Chirac's ear and helped to perpetuate the system whereby African policy is dictated by the Elysée and not by the Quai d'Orsay.

He dictated his memoirs two years ago, but revealed very little except French support for the Biafrans in the late 1960s, supposedly in return for oil for Elf. He continued to receive African leaders in Paris and it was said he knew the names of most of their children.

He was predeceased by his wife Isabelle.

PERSONAL COLUMN



ON THIS DAY

March 21, 1925

Rose Marie was to have a very long run at Drury Lane and was later revived. It was a triumph for Edith Day, who later starred in such successes as The Desert Song and Show Boat

claim to be yet, for in spite of all Mr. Billy Merson's whimsicalities, the humour is a trifle slender. The comedy may come later and, when it does, Rose Marie will be as pleasant a light entertainment as any in London.

Last night the first part, especially. was inclined, owing to the lack of humour, to drag a little. In retrospect, the whole of the first act seems to have been devoted to the farewells, both spoken and musical, between Miss Edith Day and Mr. Derek Oldham.

They loved, but nobody seemed to like them to love, and to ensure their parting until the last scene, a murder, of which the hero was soon falsely accused, was committed on the stage. There were more farewells, and in the second act the lovers said "Goodbye" again but at last all ended happily. Apart from the protracted farewells, the plot is quite effective, and has considerably more substance than one is led to expect in this kind of production.

Two things were especially impressive last night. One was the music, which was much more ambitious than the normal musical comedy score. It is the work of Mr. Rudolf Friml and Mr. Herbert Stothart. The second was the amazing "mass drill" of the members of the chorus, more than 100 in number who, in one song especially (Totem Tom Tom" was its name), roused the audience to unusual enthusiasm. The singing throughout, both of the chorus and the principals, was unusually good. The piece was received enthusiasm.

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THE TIMES TODAY

NEWS

Major lets rip at Blair and Ashdown

■ John Major unleashed a venomous assault on Tony Blair and Paddy Ashdown yesterday that reflected his belief that they had hijacked the final days of Parliament with a stagemanaged row over sleaze.

Mr Major delivered a personal tirade against Mr Blair, accusing him of trading on double standards from the moment he was elected Labour leader. He then turned on the Lib-Dem leader, telling him that he was ending the Parliament as pious and pompous as he had been throughout it _____ Pages 1, 8, 9

Ten MPs who have to wait

■ As the Commons rises today, ten Tory MPs have investigations hanging over them. A Commons investigation into accusations against 25 MPs failed yesterday to decide on the ten, including Neil Hamilton

Home help cut

In a judgment that dismayed organisations representing the infirm, the House of Lords said councils can stop providing disabled people with home help if hudgets are used up...... Page I

Shares tumble

London shares suffered their biggest one-day fall, with the FT-SE 100 index closing 74.1 points low-.... Pages 1, 25 er at 4,258.1

'Right to die' case In what is seen as a new "right to

die" test case, the most senior family judge will rule today on whether a severely brain-damaged former university student should be allowed to die...Page 2 Barrister's fall

The Hon Hugh Donovan, the barrister son of a former Law Lord, faces professional disgrace after he repeatedly vandalised a Porsche 911 and a Range Rover belonging to neighbours after a parking dispute...Page 3

Cell-block candidate

Roisin McAliskey, an IRA bombing suspect, declared she would contest her mother Bernadette's old Mid-Ulster seat from her London prison cell Page 4 Portugal challenged

The Foreign Office demanded a full report from Portuguese police who opened fire on Manchester United fans with rubber

ACROSS

others (6).

quarry (4).

left to settle? (6).

out of bed (4).

namely horse (6).

I Part of shoe conforming with

5 Collapse under strain, having

10 For instance, go for disabled

13 Singer, mid-morning, finally got

15 Sallying out in striking fashion

18 Two coins (one new, one old)

19 Policeman putting mafioso fi-

21 Creature once regarded as divine,

Solution to Puzzle No 20,432

this should cover stamp (8).

nally inside prison cell (4).

accepted a freebie (8).

9 "R" for "Reckoning"? (10).

II Garden tool has cut round helps to put heel in (8). 12 Without you, as they say, what's

The chinos man makes his mark

■ The woolly cardigan, with buttons down the front, is dead as

a male fashion statement. For years, cardigans have been one

of 600 items whose costs are monitored to compile the retail

price index. But they have now been dropped from the statisti-

cian's shopping basket in favour of chinos. Light and pale ale

have gone too, replaced by beer cans with widgets Page 1

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,433

CJD diagnosis

Tens of thousands of people may die from the new strain of Creutzfeldt-Jakob disease, scien-

Racism charge A survey of the Armed Services

and the MoD says that racism is "deeply entrenched" in the forces. The Royal Navy is the worst

Our man in Tirana

Anthony Loyd, The Times special correspondent in Tirana, was having his supper when a Special Services major phoned him to ask: "Have you got a car?" It was the start of a daring journey to rescue occupants of a besieged British-run orphanage in south-..Pages 16, 21 ern Albania.

Palestinian fury

Israeli soldiers fired teargas to break up the first of many demonstrations by Palestinians protesting at the building of a settlement in east Jerusalem... Page 17

Uneasy summit Presidents Clinton and Yeltsin

met in Helsinki for a two-day summit touted as the toughest such encounter since the end of the Cold War ...

Papua rampage

Sir Julius Chan, Prime Minister of Papua New Guinea, suspended a £17 million contract to hire British mercenaries as violence Pages 5, 20 gripped Port Moresby Page 15

into space 34 years ago in a Russian military rocket, met yesterday at The Royal Institution of Great Britain

Shares: Norwich Union is to issue 1.3 billion free shares to 2.9 million members as part of a proposed £5 billion flotation in June Page 25

Inflation: The retail price index fell again in February. Headline inflation edged lower to 2.7 per cent from 2.8 per cent in January while underlying inflation fell to 29 per

Insurer: Legal & General has suggested a resolution to the long-running pensions misselling scandal of the late

Markets: The FT-SE 100 index fell

AA INFORMATION

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Full moon March 24

stick

London 6.15 pm to 5.59 am

AA Car reports by fax

HOURS OF DARKNESS

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SPORT

Football: Nicky Butt, the Manchester United midfielder, has been included in the England squad for the first time for the international against Mexico at Wembley on Saturday week

Cricket: Tony Pigott, the former Sussex fast bowler who triggered the revolution that drove out the old committee, has been made director of cricket and acting chief executive . Page 43 of the dub _

Tennis: Tim Henman, the British No 1 competing in the Lipton championships in Florida, was voted most improved player of the

..Page 4I Doncaster...

ARTS

Second impression: The cast of Art has changed but the hit West End comedy with elements of tragedy is still playing to packed

Talk and Mindy: Rising country and western singer Mindy Mc-Ready explains why the CD-buying public finds her a fresh change from gals in spangles and lonesome cowboy clonesPage 36

Bloody marvellous: Wynton Marsalis' Blood On The Fields is a triumph of the jazzman's art, an extended composition on the theme of slavery that is 45 minutes too long but unmissable......Page 36 Slice Boys: The name of this band

is ... Cake; the music is quirky, eclectic American rock filed under A for "alternative" _____Page 37

TOMORROW

IN THE TIMES

How a fitness trainer

to the stars puts

MAGAZINE

Atlantic crossing

Volvo's top drivers

through their paces

Elizabeth McGovern,

and the second

Home front: Forget cooking; if you want to be truly trendy, Joe Joseph is told, put away the pesto and get into home decoration. So why does he have his doubts?....

Cettic hero: Valerie Grove meets Professor Roy Foster, the historian and biographer who took on the tricky subject of the man he calls one of the geat actors in Irish history", W.B. Yeats Page 19

Eliterate Harman Labour lesson: "Our proposals will demand a great deal of imagination from all those involved and much change." David Blunkett outlines Labour's plans for education...

Building blocks: A firm of architects has helped seven and eightyear-olds to design their school playground ... Activity holidays: Measures taken

since the Lyme Bay tragedy to ensure that the taste of adventure DEPARTS.

The future stability of Europe depends more than anything on stability in Russia. Rather than taking actions that may isolate Russia and encourage a resurgence of Russian nationalism, the United States ought to concentrate on trying to help Russia rebuild its faltering economy ... and make democracy irreversible

- The New York Times

Preview: Telephone at the ready. they want to hear from you. Tomorrow's World: Megalab 97 (BBC), 8pm) Review: Matthew Bond goes eel fishing (again) Page 47

Right to know

Far from lancing the boil, the mi tion has spread. It is in the interof the accused MPs and the the interest of the voters that the ties are known. The case for prompt publication of Sir Gordon's report is stronger than ever Page 2

Hetio Dolly

The Commons Committee on Science and Technology is right to call for a full-scale inquiry during the next Parliament into how MAFF commissions and uses research and scientific advice Page 21

Our Man in our Voivo

Our own correspondents still sometimes march towards the sound of the gunfire, find the news and file the copy. And we who read it should occasionally salute

MATTHEW PARRIS

As Mr Blair heads towards Downing Street, I can feel, almost touch. hanging in the air around him, the gathering Schadenfreude he has attracted over all those Tuesday and Thursday afternoons. It is a dangerous way to start Page 20 PHILIP HOWARD

"Bunter!" The Speaker's voice was not loud, but deep. It was heard distinctly by all ears in the Big. School form-room: excepting, apparently, one pair of very fat ears. "BUNTER!" The Speaker's voice was much louder, and deeper. Still Bunter did not reply ____ Page 20

LYNNE TRUSS A visit to Monte Carlo proves a 🌠 disappointment, despite the proximity of Alan Shearer, the injured striker, as Newcastle United make a speciacle of themselves against

AS Monaco...

CHU

Willem de Kooning, artist: Jacques Foceart, special adviser on African affairs to three French Presidents. ... Page 23...

ETTERS The election; film censor and

Clash: Nato enlargement: aid for Albania. __ Page 21

裳 Sunny

Surray intervals

△Cloudy nizzle 🗪

Overcast

Rain

BUSINESS :

cent from 3.1 per cent........Page 25

74.1 points to 4258.1. The sterling index was unchanged at 96.3, with the pound falling .28 cents to \$1.5940 but rising .36 pfennigs to DM2.6886. .. Page 28

Helen Sharman, left, the first Briton to travel in space on a US mission, and Valentina Tereshkova, the first woman launched

Racing: Frankie Dettori returned with a sparkling double on the first day of the new Flat season at

the American actress who has made an

E CAR 97

FORECAST General: England and Wales dry with sunny spells, cloudy later in North and West. Light winds, pleasantly warm, especially in South. Scotland and Northern Ireland mainly dry at first. Cloudy later. Rain will spread across western and northern Scotland, snow on high ground. Cold in NE Scotland. □London, SE England, Central S England, E Midlands, W Midlands,

S Wales, N Wales, NW England, Lake District, Isle of Man, Central N, N Ireland: sunny spells. Wind mainly northerly, light to moderate. Warm. Max 12 (54F). □E Anglia, E England, NE Eng-

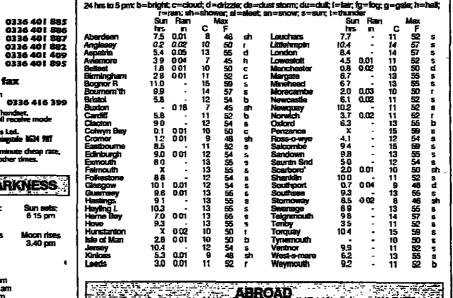
land: bright or sunny intervals. Wind fresh becoming light. Max 9C (48F). ☐Channel Isles, SW England:

rather cloudy at first, becoming brighter later. Wind north-easterly, light to moderate. Max 11C (52F). ∐Borders, Edinburgh & Dunder Aberdeen: mainly dry, sunny spells. Cloudy later. Wind light northwesterly, southerly later. Max 7C (5F). SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Argyll, NW Scotland, Orkney.

mainly dry at first, becoming cloudy with rain or drizzle. Wind becoming moderate to fresh. Max 10C (50F). Shetland: sun, showers dying out later. Rain in evening. Wind fresh becoming moderate. Max 6C (43F).

Outlook for Saturday and Sunday: Rain in north spreading to most parts.

AROUND BRITAIN YESTERDAY



Cortu.
Cortugar
Dubin
Dubin
Dubrovni
Faro
Forence
Prankturi
Forence
Runchai
Goneva
Glibretter
Helsinid
Hong K
Innsbrek
Istanbul
Jeddah
Jo'aurg
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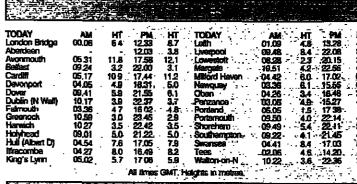
Temperatures at midday local time Wednesday, X = not available

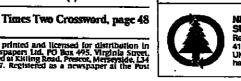
Sunny 14 shower Suntry showers Lightning

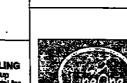
Temperati (Celsius) Wind speed

Sea conditions









It's looking bright on LineOne



23 Capitalism, anarchi

25 Wander around city, talking (4).

26 Spy or nark - 'e gets busily

27 Criminal takes two fools in (8).

28 Join up broken lines, given time

None of relay team have set off in

Englishmen in Perth rapidly fir

When it's very cold, one may look

6 Chap with a passion for church

7 "A", for instance, stands for

8 A jolly bad fuss about it – Kipling described how it started (9).

14 None the less, corrosion's ruined

16 Derived from forebears from parts of Lancaster (9). 17 Doctor visited Sanders' subordi-

20 Pass by the Spanish Church's

22 Steps taken to eliminate salt from

3 Where cobbler should

throughout life (2,3,4).

hold charm (8).

involved (4.6).

this direction (5).

ing gun (3-3).

sharp (3,4,6,2).

architecture (8).

"Auspices" (5).

this medal (4,5).

eastern end (6).

nate (8).

cake (5). 24 Plant arbours? (5).

